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*Bingham*

# SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY



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1812 -- 1962



BINGHAM, Me.

SESQUICENTENNIAL

HISTORY

1812 -- 1962



*by* THE HISTORY COMMITTEE  
*of the* BINGHAM SESQUICENTENNIAL



1962

THE SKOWHEGAN PRESS  
SKOWHEGAN, MAINE

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Pages 7, 13, 14, 18, 22, 30, 33, 36, 37, 41, 48, 53, 57,  
59, 62, 65, 67, 73, 78, 81, 85, 89, 98.

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*Sources of Information Used in this History:*

Town records.

Papers written by Jabez Hill in 1875.

Notes of T. F. Houghton in 1884.

Notes of E. W. Moore during his lifetime.

Notes of Lizzie Gilman McQuilken.

Notes written by Sydney T. Goodrich in 1912.

Other sources include old diaries, scrapbooks, records of the Churches, Library, the Bingham Water District and the Bingham Fire Department, and for the schools, the town reports.



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

An Act to establish the town of Bingham.

Section 1<sup>st</sup>. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, that the Township Number one in the first Range of townships within the Bingham purchase in the County of Somerset, be and hereby is, incorporated and established as a Town, by the name of Bingham within the following described boundaries viz. Bounded south by the Town of Solon, East by number two in Range aforesaid, North by number one in the second Range east of Kennebeck River. - And the Inhabitants of the said town of Bingham are hereby vested with all the powers and privileges, and subjected to the like duties and requisitions of other towns according to the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth.

Section 2<sup>d</sup>. And be it further enacted that any Justice of the Peace for the County of Somerset is hereby authorized upon application therefor to issue a warrant directed to a freeholder and inhabitant of the said town of Bingham requiring him to notify and warn the <sup>inhabitants</sup> thereof to meet at such convenient time and place as shall be appointed in said warrant, for the choice of ~~such~~ officers as Towns are by Law empowered and required to choose at their annual town meetings.

In the House of Representatives Feb. 5. 1812. This Bill having had three several readings, Past to be enacted.

In Senate Feb. 5. 1812. This Bill had two several readings past to be enacted.

Samuel Dana President  
Council Chamber 6. Feb. 1812. Approved E. Gerry.  
Secretary's Office } a true Copy attest Benjamin Thomas, Secretary  
10 March 1812.

Bingham 9. June 1812 a true Copy attest Ephraim Wood Town Clerk



# First Town Meeting.

Sonerset p.

Pursuant to the Statute Act and also to the petition to me directed I have held a legal meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Bingham at which the following Officers were chosen viz.

Ephraim Wood Town Clerk.

Ephraim Wood  
Abner Baker and } Select Men.  
Obed Willson

Joshua Goodridge Town Treasurer.

Ephraim Wood  
Abner Baker and } Assessors.  
Obed Willson

Washington M'Intire Constable and Collector,  
who agreed to collect for 3 per cent.

Daniel Foster and } Fence viewers.  
Daniel Williams

Washington M'Intire  
Stephen Parker  
Jonathan Bainworth, jr } Hay Revers.  
Jon Young  
Luther Moore and  
John Tushin

Edward Howes and } Surveyors of Timber.  
John Goodridge

Calvin Peave  
Daniel Foster  
Amherst Spafford and } Highway Surveyors  
Joshua Goodridge, jr  
Joshua Goodridge

Daniel Churchhat and } Lyingmen.  
Aaron Rice

Calvin Peave  
Levi Goodridge and } Field Drivers.  
David Smith

I hereby certify that the above Officers were duly chosen and sworn before me as the Law directs.

Calb. Jewett Justice Peace.

Bingham 9 June 1812. A true Copy Ephraim Wood Town Clerk

# The Early Settlers on the River

IT IS WELL IN THE YEAR of 1962, the anniversary of our town's incorporation, when our National Government has sent its astronauts into outer space to circle the earth three times and to return safely in a few hours; when we sit in our homes and share our President's press conferences by TV, or with his wife in the wonders of India; when we eat our breakfast in Boston and our dinner in San Francisco; when a half-million-dollar High School, which Bingham and neighboring towns have built, adorns the hill cleared by an early settler; for us to pause and to turn back the pages of our town's records, and of our families; to think about the men and women who came here by spotted trail, bridal path, up the river in canoes or bateaux to an unbroken wilderness where they carved out homes for themselves and founded a town which they could pass on to their children and to us. Bingham is a town of which we may be proud. Old and young can say, "This is my home-town, and I love it."

The men who settled this valley were not mere wanderers or adventurers. They were like all men who have achieved have been. They had come from the older, more cultured towns of Massachusetts with a definite purpose. Life was a serious business with them. War with the mother country was just over, a new nation had been born and was stretching itself as a newborn child must do to grow. It must be fed, clothed and housed. The young government was not ready to do much for its children. Poor it was as money and currency were concerned, but rich in lands. Land was the one thing more than all else to be desired. A great undeveloped continent lay around them and to the northeast the forest-covered province of Maine from which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hoped to receive great revenue to pay her own debts incurred in the war. Men who had followed Arnold to Quebec had returned with reports of a beautiful fertile valley of the Kennebec. Various means had been used to induce people to take up lands and settle—and so the trek began.

Some of the men came at first without their families, waiting until they had made a clearing and built cabins before they moved their families. Others brought their families with them.



Small settlements had been founded on the way up. At Hallowell and Waterville were older ones, and at Canaan and Norridgewock were more recent ones.

It was from Norridgewock that the first settlers came to this place, then called Carrytunk, from the falls at Solon, and including all the land from the northern boundary of Solon to the forks of the river. Tradition and all historical accounts point to William Fletcher as the first white man to take up land in what is now the town of Bingham (in 1784), and to him goes the honor of being the first settler. Following closely, possibly the same year, was a young man, Ephraim Wood, also from Norridgewock.

#### WILLIAM FLETCHER

William Fletcher, Bingham's first settler, was born in Concord, Massachusetts. He married Sarah Frost of Westford, Massachusetts in 1764. Four of their eight children were born before coming to Maine. They came to Canaan in 1771 and to Norridgewock in 1773. They were in Norridgewock when Arnold went up through. Their children born there were Sarah, Asa, Polly and Lucy.

He took an active part in the affairs of the settlement at Norridgewock. It is thought that he may have taken lands up here some time before moving the family. The land which he cleared here was in what is now the upper part of Bingham Village—lots 17 and 18 on the Philip Bullin map. He built a mill on the banks of the Austin Stream. In 1795, he sold a part of the land, or Lot 17, to Levi Good-



ABEL PARLIN PLACE — House Built by Steven Parlin  
Photo taken about 1900

rich, son of Joshua Goodrich. After his death, his son, Asa, occupied the farm for a time. Then it was sold to Levi G. Fletcher, a nephew, who built a home on what is now a part of Walter Harwood's property. The store now occupied by Clayton Andrews was also on this lot. The old house was moved off to a lot on the lower end of Baker Street some years ago, and part of it is occupied by Leon Roberts.

Most of the stores and business blocks of Bingham are located on the land which William Fletcher cleared as well as some of its homes. The farmland passed from the Fletchers to Sewall Baker, to his son Edwin Baker and to Albert Murray. Murray Street, running east out to Bingham Heights, Baker Street, Preble Street, and Whitney Street are a part of the Fletcher land.

He died in 1806 and is buried in the village cemetery with his wife.

### EPHRAIM WOOD

Ephraim Wood, one of the first two white men to take up land in this town, was the son of Oliver and Lucy Hosmer Wood, who came to Norridgewock in 1773.

Ephraim was born in Concord, Massachusetts, November 19, 1759. He appears to have been an educated young man and has been referred to as teaching up and down the river, and sometimes exchanging teaching for farming. He came here and took up land about 1784 on what is now the intervale farm of Guy Herron, and land owned by the late Emil Fecteau. In 1799, he married Lephie Goodrich, the daughter of Joshua Goodrich, who had settled the next place but one above his.

Through the years he became one of Bingham's most useful and respected citizens. He was one of the group who formed the Congregational Church in 1805, and served as one of its deacons and its clerk for many years. He was one of the signers of the petition for the incorporation of the town, and at its organization was its first selectman and town clerk, which office he held for eleven years. His records stand today a credit to himself and to the town. Wherever we have found him he has proved to be an intelligent, educated, and Christian man—a man whom the town may be proud to remember as one of its founders and his descendants glad to call him an ancestor.

He died August 12, 1841. His wife died December 12 of the same year. They rest in our village cemetery.

The names of their children are recorded in the town records by his own hand. They were: Lydia, b. Oct. 16, 1800; Lucy, b. June 17, 1803; Lois, b. Aug. 27, 1805; Aseneth, b. Feb. 16, 1808; Sarah, b. June 24, 1810; Samuel, b. Feb. 28, 1814; Mary and Martha, twins, b. Sept. 25, 1817.



## JOSHUA GOODRICH

Joshua Goodrich, or Capt'n Goodrich as he was sometimes called, was one of the first six settlers of this place. He was born in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, August 10, 1746, the son of Joshua and Lydia Sterns Goodrich. He married Elizabeth Phelps of Fitchburg in 1769.

Their first child was born and died in Lunenburg. They moved to Fitchburg where the next five children were born. In 1780, they moved to Canaan or Bloomfield and lived there about eight years. Three more children were born there and one died. In 1888 or 89, they moved to this town where their youngest child, Benjamine, was born, and remained here the rest of their lives. Joshua served in the war of the Revolution. He was always active in public affairs. He was one of the leaders in bringing about the incorporation of the town. The first town meeting was held in his house and he was the first town treasurer. He gave to the town the first land for a cemetery where the old slate slabs mark the graves of the early settlers. He built a saw- and gristmill on the Mill Brook which was in use for many years. The first schoolhouse was built on his land in front of the cemetery. He died in December 1815. His wife outlived him for many years. She was often referred to as having a marked religious influence in the community and was instrumental in organizing the first Church. She died in March 1840. They both rest in the old part of the cemetery, with many of their children and grandchildren buried near them.

Their children were: Phineas, born and died in Lunenburg; Elizabeth b. 1773; Lephie and Levi, twins b. 1774; Joshua b. 1776; John b. 1778, all in Fitchburg; Abijah b. 1781; Lydia b. 1783; David b. 1785. These last three were born in Canaan. Benjamine was born in 1799 in Bingham. All but Benjamine settled in Bingham except Abijah who moved to Concord in 1830, and Benjamine who went early to The Forks, where he was a first settler.

## SILAS PARLIN

Silas Parlin, who was one of the first six settlers from Norridgewock, came about 1788 or 1789. He was living in Norridgewock at the time of its incorporation in 1789. He probably retained his residence there until his place here was ready for his family. He settled first on Lot 12, between Ephraim Wood's and Joshua Goodrich's places. He sold this place about 1805 to Edward Howes who seems to have come here from Cape Cod. Parlin afterward settled the place where Dr. Blunt lived later, according to E. W. Moore's notes. The place where he first settled was later known as the Whipple place and is now the Maplewood Springs, the summer place owned by Stanton Beane.

Silas Parlin was born in Concord, Massachusetts the son of John and Margaret MacCollo Parlin, in 1760. He was a Revolutionary War soldier and came to Maine after the war was over. He married Lydia Wood, daughter of Oliver Wood of Norridgewock and sister of Ephraim Wood, in 1781. She was born in Concord, Massachusetts in 1762.

Their children were Silas Jr. and Abel, who were born in Concord, Massachusetts, and Lucy, Stephen and Alpha born in Norridgewock.

Silas Parlin was a great hunter, and tradition has it that Parlin Pond was named for him.

His wife died in Bingham in 1820, and he died in 1828.

#### DANIEL FOSTER

Daniel Foster settled on No. 14 lot, next above that of Joshua Goodrich on the river. From the records of Temple, New Hampshire, Daniel Foster is mentioned as the son of Joshua Foster, a carpenter, who had come to that town from Boxwood with three children. Daniel was born in 1759. He married Dorcas Fletcher, daughter of William Fletcher. They had no children. He came to Carrytunk in 1800. His name is listed on the Titcomb map of 1890 as owning a lot on the Concord side.

His name appears with the signers of the petition for organization March 23rd, 1812. Among the first officers his name appears with Daniel Williams as fence viewers and with Amherst Spafford and Joshua Goodrich Jr. as highway surveyors.

He died in 1832. His widow lived on in the same place for many years. She is referred to in a Church missive as "living in the same place opposite the schoolhouse." She gave Levi G. Fletcher a deed to the lot for the old Meeting House for \$50.00 in 1836. In June 1837, Mary Fletcher, et al, gave a quit claim deed to the Bingham Free Meeting House Society.

On August 9, 1843, Dorcas Foster gave a deed to Charles B. Foster of The Forks, presumably to the farm on which she lived. Dorcas Foster died in 1847 and is buried beside her husband in Bingham Village Cemetery.

The place where they lived has since been owned and occupied by Thomas Wiggin, Charles Bray, Orrison Gordon and the present owner, Mrs. Henry Cooley.

#### EPHRAIM HEALD - PETERBOROUGH

Ephraim Heald was one of Bingham's first six settlers. Just when he came here is uncertain. He came from Peterboro, New Hampshire, and to distinguish him from Major Ephraim Heald who settled on what is now the Cool place in Concord, he was nicknamed "Peterboro Heald." The name in both families came to be called Hale, probably



from mis-pronunciation. He settled on the farm afterward owned by Chandler Baker and later by James O'Hara. The land is now included in Rollins Street and James Street. He is said to have built the first framed house in Bingham. It stood back from Main Street as it runs now, but on the road which at first followed nearer the river. It sat for many years just below the place known as The Yellow Bowl. It was known to earlier generations as the "Hale House," later the "Bill Moore House." It was at one time owned by Frank Hunnewell, who rented it. It was last owned by Mrs. Grace Rollins, then proprietor of The Yellow Bowl, who had it taken down.

Ephraim Heald was one of the signers of the petition for incorporation and of the signers for the first warrant for the town meeting.

According to the town records, Ephraim Heald was born October 28, 1774. His wife Polly (Mary Ireland) was born March 8, 1782. Their children were Rachel, Polly, Daniel, Ephraim, Betsey, William, Nancy and Harrison.

Ephraim Heald died December 14, 1834, and his wife Polly died January 3, 1861. They are buried in the Village Cemetery.

#### EZEKIEL CHASE

Ezekiel Chase, whose name appears among the first settlers both on the Samuel Titcomb map of 1790 and the Philip Bullin map of 1800, has been listed as Captain Ezekiel Chase and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He was a brother to Roger Chase who settled on the west side of the river in what is now Concord at an early date.

Ezekiel Chase left this section in 1802 and took up land on the Piscataquis River, and was the first settler in Sebec, where he moved his family. He had a brother, Abel, who went there with him.

A story is told in "Maine Place Names" of Roger Chase of Carrytunk who went to Sebec in 1804 and built and installed a sawmill and a gristmill on the river for his brothers. From this mill the first boards were sawed and the first grist was ground on the Piscataquis River. Roger returned to the Kennebec Valley.

#### DANIEL CHURCHILL

Daniel Churchill, who has been listed among the first six settlers, came from Norridgewock. He was here before 1800 and settled on the lot next above that of Daniel Foster—lot No. 15, Philip Bullin map. He was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Churchill, who also came. He married Lucy, daughter of William Fletcher. They had several children. A son, Daniel, married Caroline Baker, daughter of Brown Baker, who moved west. A daughter, Hanner, married David McIntire. Daniel's widow was living with them between 1850 and 1870. Another daughter married Shurtliff Smith.

Daniel Churchill was one of the signers for the incorporation of

the town. His name is listed with that of Joshua Goodrich and Aaron Rice as tything men at the first election of officers.

He died January 2, 1850. The farm he settled was later owned by Nathan Baker, who married Lydia Wood, daughter of Ephraim Wood. After Nathan Baker's death, this place was sold to John Owens, Sr., and has been known as the Owens place.

#### REVEREND OBED WILSON

Obed Wilson was one of Bingham's early settlers who distinguished himself in several ways. He was the son of Oliver and Sarah Harwood Wilson of Starks. He was born there October 15, 1778. He was married to Christina Gray, daughter of Capt. John and Elizabeth Boyington Gray of Embden. They came to Bingham in 1802 and cleared a lot in the southern part of the town next but one to the Solon line. Here in the forest he made a home for his wife and two small children.

In 1805, he became converted and felt that he was called to preach the Gospel. This was a test. He had but a meager amount of formal education but he had a thirst for knowledge, a good mind and a good amount of natural ability. After consulting with his wife and much prayer he made his decision, and in 1806 he preached his first sermon. He had no formal pastorate but went wherever he saw a need. And for many years he worked his farm during the week and preached somewhere each Sunday. The people listened to him gladly. He was of the Methodist denomination and was ordained an Elder in 1828. When the Union Church was built in Bingham in 1836, he preached the dedicatory sermon and when the Union Church was built in Solon the following year he was chosen to preach the sermon there. A Bowdoin graduate who heard both sermons is reported to have said "in natural ability he stood head and shoulder above those around him."

But he also found other ways of serving his fellowmen and community. His name was among the signers of the petition for the incorporation of the town in 1811, and when the call for organization came his name was on that petition. At the first town meeting he was chosen one of the selectmen, which office he held for some years. He also served for several years on the school committee.

He was a member of the Convention of 1820 and 1821 which formed the Constitution of the State, and served as a representative to the first Legislature after Maine became a State. He served both in the Legislature and the Senate several times; the last time in the winter of 1835 and 1836.

Mindful of his own limited opportunities, he was deeply interested in all institutions of learning. He was one of the founders of the Maine Wesleyan Seminary at Kents Hill, and one of its overseers



until his death. Three of his sons were educated there. One of his sons was sent to Waterville College (Colby) where he died at the age of twenty-three.



#### THE OBED WILSON HOUSE

One of Bingham's oldest houses—on Route 201—recently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmont Doyle. Built by Obed Wilson who came from Starks in 1802, cleared the land and erected a cabin and later built this house.

His wife, Christina, died in December 1834. He was married to his second wife, Mrs. Martha Cox of Hallowell, in 1837. He moved to Skowhegan that fall where he was pastor of the small Church at that time. He died in November 1840. He and his wife Christina are buried in the Pierce Cemetery not far from the home which he had cleared for them and his family in Bingham.

They were the parents of fourteen children: Joshua Grey Wilson, Daniel, Obed Jr., who died in Waterville, Christina, Betsey, Sally, Sussana, Betty, Oliver, Martha, Susan, John M., Horace Brown, and Obed J. Wilson.

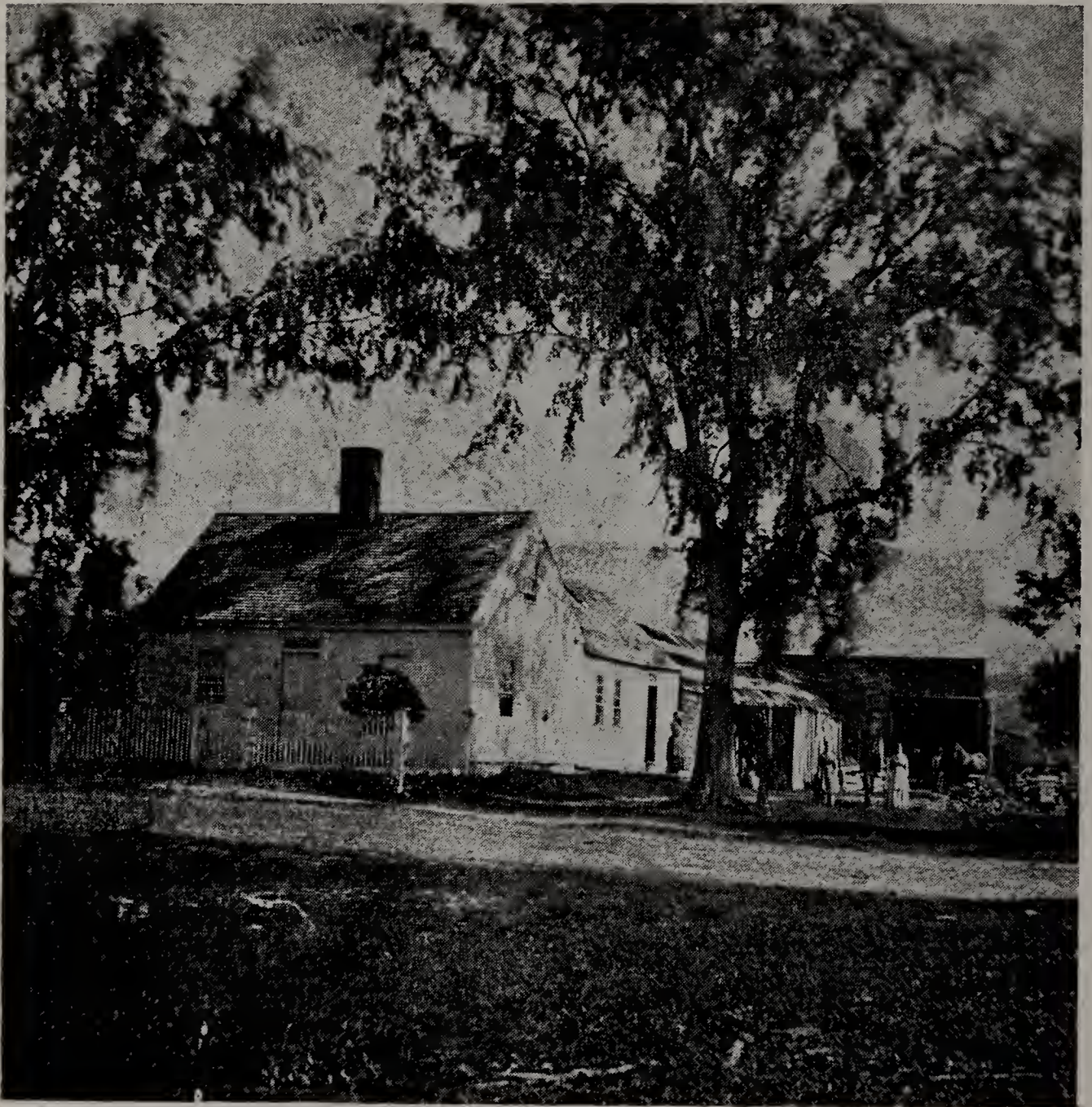
The home of Obed Wilson still stands, and is one of the oldest houses in the town. It passed from him to his son, Daniel, who twice married—first to Hannah Baker, daughter of Brown Baker, by whom he had two daughters. After the death of Hannah, he was married to Mary (Polly) Goodrich, daughter of Levi Goodrich. They had thirteen children, including two pair of twins born one year and two days apart. Of this family, Sarah Wilson, who married Joseph Merrill,



remained in the old home and cared for her mother, Polly, who died in 1898 at the age of ninety-four years. Sarah's son, Melville, married Hattie Joyce and they remained on the farm. They had one daughter when Melville died. The farm changed hands soon after.

The late Wilmont Doyle and his wife Etta bought this farm in 1922, and lived there until his death in 1960. It has been sold to their granddaughter and husband, Norma and Dale Miller.

— MRS. ELIZABETH G. JORDAN



Home of Pickard and Elizabeth Goodrich.



# Goodrich Hill Road

JOSHUA GOODRICH, JR., THE FIRST SETTLER of the name to come to this region, came about 1790 and settled on the farm now known as the Taylor farm. His son, Joshua III, married Betsey Robbins of Skowhegan and settled on the next farm on the east. Someone had been there before him, made a small clearing and built a log house, but did not gain title to the land. When they were married he proposed going there at once and start housekeeping in the log house, but Betsey ruled otherwise, saying that she never had lived in a log house and did not intend to do so now, neither for him nor any other man. The result was that they lived with his father's family while the frame house was being built, reputedly for a year and one day. As their first child was born there June 26, 1802, it is quite possible that they moved to their new home later in that year.

The frame house which Joshua built for his bride is still standing and forms part of the shed connected to the present house. One room in the old house was used for school purposes for many years and was always referred to as the "school room." The present house was built about 1825. Simon Piper was employed as carpenter.

The grist- and sawmills on Jackson Brook, locally known as Mill Brook, were built on land which was part of the farm owned by Joshua Jr., although operated for a long time by Joshua III. The gristmill stood below the bridge which now crosses the brook. The last timbers of the dam and part of the foundation of the mill disappeared in a freshet about 1900. The sawmill was a few rods upstream.

On October 7, 1815, Joshua IV, oldest son of Joshua III, aged thirteen years, was accidentally killed in the gristmill. He was playing in the mill and fell under the water wheel. It is a family tradition that grief over this event hastened the death of his grandfather which occurred December 20 of the same year.

No record has been found as to when the use of these mills was discontinued, but as subscriptions were taken in 1836 to build the mills on Austin Stream, it was probably some time before this date. In his will, Joshua, Jr. mentions the fact that the dam at the sawmill was out of repair. He left his farm, the gristmill and one-half interest in the sawmill to his sons, Abiah and Benjamin, the other half interest in the gristmill to his son, Levi.

Another house was built on the farm of Joshua III in the 1840's. His fifth son, Darius, was engaged to marry Lydia, daughter of Capt. William Baker. He was to have the east half of the farm, so he dug a cellar, built a house and barn on the north side of the road about one-fourth mile east of his father's house. For some reason the engagement was broken and the house was never occupied. Darius

went west in the gold rush, married and died in Minnesota, while Lydia never married. His father moved the barn down beside his own and the house was sold and moved across the Kennebec River to become the old red schoolhouse on the farm of Walter Hughes. It was used for many years as an ice house and finally burned.

The next occupant of this farm was Simon, fourth son of Joshua and Betsey. He married Desire, daughter of Capt. William Baker. He in turn was followed by his son, Granville, who married Alice, daughter of Caleb Robinson. Next came their son, Claude, who married Audrey, daughter of Albert Smith. He took over the place about 1912. It is now owned and occupied by Harry Knowles and wife, Bertha, daughter of Claude, who have remodeled and modernized this ancient dwelling.

Nearby two other homes have lately been built by Russell Rupell and Linwood Knowles.

The farm which adjoined Joshua's on the north was cleared and settled by his brother, John Goodrich, who married Susan, daughter of Jonathan Bosworth. Here their twelve children were born. Their son, Willard, took over the farm, married Mrs. Charlotte (Colby) Dennis, and lived here until after the death of his aged parents. Their son Willis was born here. About 1870 he exchanged places with William Preble (father of Fred, Mrs. Tilson Foss, etc.), and moved to Bingham Village. After the Prebles, it was occupied by families of Merrill, Studley and Whitiker. About 1880, it was purchased by James Redmond, who built a cider mill here, to which the farmers for miles around brought their apples by the hayrack load to be ground, the cider pressed out and barrelled. Richard Curtis lived here for a short time. It was sold by John Redmond about 1898 to John Kelley.

The next owner was Winslow Rollins, who lived here until after the death of his wife in 1918, when he sold to Walter Robinson. A few years later the buildings were torn down and a house was built in Bingham Village with the lumber. Afterward the farm was sold to the S. D. Warren Co.

About 1914-15, while occupied by Winslow Rollins, one room in this house was utilized as a school room. Lila (Rowe) Morrison and Maisie Murphy Gilman were among the teachers who taught here.

The farm to the north of the John Goodrich place was reputedly cleared and settled by a man by the name of Gore. This was undoubtedly soon after 1800. In the early days a road came from the Moscow-Mayfield road, by the Charles Webster and Cahill farms, to the Gore farm and from there to the Parlin place. Peter Smith lived here at one time and his daughter, Annie (Smith) Moore, was born here.



There has been no evidence of any buildings for over seventy-five years, except for a log camp built by Frank and Curren Smith when cutting lumber there while they owned it for a number of years. Quite a large orchard had once been set out here. This farm is now owned by the S. D. Warren Co.

Adjoining the John Goodrich farm on the east was the Parlin farm which was cleared and settled by Abel Parlin, who married Lydia Goodrich, a sister of Joshua III and John. Abel Parlin, and, after him, his son, Stephen, who married Mary, daughter of Joseph Bassett, lived, raised large families and died on the Parlin farm.

Three houses were built on this farm. Abel built a small house when he first came here, probably a log house. After building a larger frame house, he tore down the first one.

Sometime between 1830 and 1835, his son, Stephen, soon after his marriage, built a new house a few rods north of the site of the old one. This remained there until about 1930, when it was torn down by John Redmond and a house built from the lumber by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hunnewell. Rev. Keith E. Smith now occupies this house. Lumber from the barn was utilized by Walter Hughes in some of his buildings.

After the new house was completed, Stephen and his wife went on horseback to Bangor, and there purchased carpets, dishes, wallpaper, etc. The wallpaper, which was of pure white with embossed medallions, remained, in perfect condition, on the walls of the "parlor" for over seventy years.

After the death of Stephen's widow in 1892, the farm was sold to John Redmond who lived there until he sold to the S. D. Warren Co. and moved to Bingham Village.

We have found no record of when, or by whom, the farm south of the Parlin farm and now known as the Williams place, was cleared or settled. A family by the name of Dorr lived there at one time. The 1850 Census shows Joseph Chamberlain living there, and Joseph Adams was living there in 1860. David Whipple lived there for a short time before moving to what is now known as Maplewood Spring farm on the river road. Llewelyn Williams, who married Flora, daughter of Nathaniel Withee, moved to this farm about 1875, raised his family and died here. Alfred Curtis was the last occupant. He sold about 1925 to the S. D. Warren Co., after which the buildings were torn down.

The farm south of the Williams farm, which was in later years owned by Williams and constituted part of his farm, was cleared and settled by Sylvester Jennings who married a daughter of the Joseph Adams who at that time lived on the Williams farm. He



John Goodrich House, 1805, later known as Kelly Place.

built a house and barn and lived there for several years. About 1875 it was bought by James Redmond who lived there until the buildings burned in 1880. The next owner was a Mahoney, who built a house and lived there for a short time. The house was never finished and was later used as a barn for storing hay. This was torn down after the S. D. Warren Co. bought the land.

Another house was built several rods to the north of this road and a few rods west of the Mill Brook by Benjamin Goodrich, son of Joshua, Jr. Here he presumably lived before moving to The Forks, where, for several years, he ran a ferry across Dead River on the old Canada Road. Afterward Levi Robinson, who was an uncle of Benjamin's wife, Belinda, daughter of Brown Baker, lived here for several years. Evidence of the cellar is still visible in the Taylor pasture.

Another house, built in recent years, on this road near its intersection with Main Street, is now occupied by Arthur J. Gamache.

— MRS. LEONA STERLING



# Eastern Settlements in Bingham

SOON AFTER THE FIRST SETTLERS along the Kennebec began building their log houses and clearing their farms here, the eastern hills of the section began to be cleared and settled. Curiously enough, the newcomers arrived from the east over a trail that led through Athens, or West Athens by way of the Wentworth farm. One of these was Turner Willey who came from Wolfsboro, New Hampshire. He settled on the farm that has since come to be known as the Charles Gilman place. It is told that his wife brought grass roots from the Wentworth farm for her geese. This family traveled on horseback, coming about 1805.

David Gilman, a stepson of Turner Willey, cleared two farms, one later called the William Kiger farm, and the other the Warren Tozier place. He became prominent in town affairs, serving as Captain of the Maine Militia, as Trial Justice, and Justice of the Peace. His son, Charles, after serving in the Civil War, returned to follow in his steps, and served as Justice of the Peace for forty-nine years, performing many marriages during his terms of office. The descendants have followed their good examples of citizenship.

Amherst Spofford, a signer of the petition for Incorporation, and a veteran of the War of 1812, settled on a farm across Fall Brook north of the place now called "Taylor Place." After clearing his land, about 1807, it is said that he and a son went to The Forks and cleared an area on the point of land between the confluence of Dead River and the East Branch of the Kennebec. In burning the felled trees while clearing the area, their cabin burned, and, discouraged by this event he returned to his first settlement. They came from the Town of Claremont, New Hampshire. As was often the case in those times, he was buried on his farm when he died, but the spot is no longer marked.

Washington McIntyre, who became the tax collector when the town was incorporated, originally cleared the farm now known as the Frank Savage place, and his sons and daughters married and settled nearby farms. One daughter, Betsy, married Ansel Holway and they settled on a section just east of the property owned by her father, and which was later passed on to their son, Isaac Holway. It became one of the finest in the area. It was told that Mr. Ansel Holway had but seventy-five cents in his possession. With it he bought the axe which he used to clear his farm.

Samuel Clark settled where the North Road branches off near the Charles Gilman place. He was the grandfather of Albion Clark, a well-known citizen of Bingham for many years. Samuel's son, Elder Charles Clark, cleared the place that afterwards became Bingham's Town Farm.

Johnson Mountain is named for Darenus Johnson who settled there on the corner still called by that name, where the Lake Road crosses the Mahoney Hill Road. He had a mill on the stream also known by the name of Johnson. Nearby lived his wife's father whose name was Moody. All of these came from Vermont. His daughters married and settled in the neighborhood, and the men cleared more land.

Hiram Grant, Sr., a son of Peter Grant who had already settled over the Brighton line, settled the farm that his grandson, Coney Grant, owned for many years. All the Grant family were active in town affairs.

The land on Mahoney Hill was settled by a young man who had come first to Bingham about the time of the outbreak of the War of 1812. In his own story he says that his father came to Canaan from Jaffrey, New Hampshire. His father earned a meager living as a shoemaker, and Calvin Russell started to work on a farm in the newly settled town. Deciding that he could never hope to own anything on his earnings, he and his young wife, carrying with them their only goods, went into the forested area east of the town and at the top of the highest hill he cleared a place and built a log cabin. He says in his story that he lived in the log cabin for ten years and then built a frame house. He lived there for forty years, and passed it on to his son, William Russell. He lived his last days in town with his daughter, Cordelia Burke, dying after his ninetieth year. He, too, was a signer of the Petition for Incorporation.

These earlier settlers formed a nucleus of a group that cleared and cultivated a large area, and their sons and daughters settled on and cleared nearby acres in what is still called "the back part of Bingham" until its population equalled that of the town itself. Their descendants have been, and are, well-known citizens of both the farming and town section. Much of the land cleared so laboriously has gone back into forested land, much of it being marginal land, better suited to growing trees than other crops.

(The above is from notes by Lizzie Gilman McQuilkin.)



## New England Heritage

(The subject of this poem, Isaac Holway, was a life-long resident of Bingham, and served his town as selectman, member of the school board and in other offices. He was born on the farm which his father had carved out of the wilderness in the last days of the eighteenth century.)

\* \* \* \* \*

*I know where there was once a bit of Paradise  
Wherein a good man dwelt.*

*And in his eyes  
There was a gleam of joyousness and peace  
That lasted through his life, nor did he ever cease  
To be happy.*

*The happiest man I ever knew!  
And yet his pleasures were so very few  
As we count pleasures. Scarce a day of rest,  
A half-day trip to town, weekly, in quest  
Of sundries, at the village grocery store.  
He seldom stopped but for an hour or more,  
Then turned his good horse homeward.*

*At his side  
His dog, who ever seemed to like the ride.*

*His world was such a tiny portion of this sphere.  
Its boundaries, scarce farther than he could hear  
The sounds of Nature, the black crow's raucous call,  
The guns of hunters as they came each fall.  
As far as he could see, he owned the land  
And in the midst what he would call his "stand  
Of buildings".*

*Glistening white with shutters green  
Within the valley, where they might be seen  
From every side.*

*They seemd to gain renown  
By being the best kept within the town.*

*He tilled his fields with oxen, whose quaint names  
Were Buck and Broad. They always were the same  
Though one pair should outlive their usefulness,  
He always gave the names to all the rest  
That followed after. They were easy names to say  
And fancier ones were not the custom of his day.  
He loved his animals, his flocks, his bees,*

*His lovely gardens and his appletrees,  
His faithful neighbors. How he loved his home!  
He was content without a thought to roam  
Beyond the boundaries of his peaceful farm,  
Where unknown roads might lead him to great harm.*

*Within this paradise I lived with him,  
Watched him grow old, his kindly eyes grow dim,  
His step grow feeble and his shoulders bend  
As men are apt to do when toward the end  
Of life's long journey, but the sweet content  
Within his heart still stayed and never went.  
These memories of him sweeter grow each year,  
A precious heritage, I hold most dear.*

— ELSIA HOLWAY BURLEIGH

(Published in the *National Anthology of Father Verse*.)



Bingham Village in 1909 taken from the east.



# William Bingham

THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM BINGHAM is perpetuated today in the names of Bingham, Maine, and Binghamton, New York. Binghamton, New York, probably commemorates one of his more successful real estate developments; while the Kennebec Lands in Maine were, for him, very unsatisfactory. However, as time went on, Alexander Baring of the English family of bankers became associated with the enterprise and was interested in having towns named for key men in the business. Just when the name of Bingham was first applied to this town does not seem to be a matter of record, but the idea probably stemmed from Mr. Baring. The first settlers used the name of Caratunk for this vicinity.

Mr. Bingham was a man of tremendous mental ability, high honor, and great success in business. He was the son of a Philadelphia business man, and was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1768 at the age of sixteen. When the Revolution against British rule occurred he was selected by the leaders of the revolt, because of his phenomenal aptitude for big business, to secure supplies of arms and ammunition from France or wherever they might be found. For this task he established himself on the Island of Martinique in the Caribbean where he operated successfully during the War.

Not long after the War he married the beautiful daughter of a prominent Philadelphia banker, and for most of their lives Mr. and Mrs. Bingham lived in a fine residence near Philadelphia.

After the Revolution there was a period of great readjustment as our new nation struggled from the exhaustion of the War, towards the great promise of the future. A large section of this great continent was now free to be developed as its inhabitants saw fit; and this led to a great era of land speculation. Companies were formed which acquired vast holdings of undeveloped wilderness, all along through the eastern states from Florida to Canada, and west into Ohio. In these sections there developed new towns, new agricultural areas, and new industries; which sometimes brought wealth to their promoters, and sometimes financial ruin.

William Bingham had become one of the business giants of that day and was involved in numerous land speculations. Here we come to the Maine situation. A series of efforts had been made to develop the great wilderness of Maine. These had consistently proved unprofitable. The area was part of Massachusetts which had tried a land lottery and that had been followed by the efforts of several private companies. The wife of General Knox had inherited a large amount of land in Maine from a grandfather; and General Knox (Washington's

Secretary of War) was involved in various attempts to profitably settle and develop the lands in Maine. He was a friend of Mr. Bingham who, through him, became interested and finally joined in a plan, with General Knox as his principal partner, to take over an immense amount of Maine land.

This new company had first to do business with the Massachusetts legislature, which drove a hard bargain. But after long and involved negotiations the new company was allowed vast areas in Maine which became the actual property of the company only after all the complicated stipulations were finally met. This proved to be some time after the death of Mr. Bingham.

Mr. Bingham and General Knox gave the job of manager to their mutual friend, General Cobb. General Cobb's headquarters were established on the coast of Maine at Gouldsboro, and little is heard of the Kennebec purchase until some years later. During the remaining years of Mr. Bingham's life his company had two objectives. The first was to colonize and develop the coastal area of Maine north of Mt. Desert Island; and, second, was to sell the Kennebec area to anybody who would buy it.

This business venture in Maine was not profitable for Mr. Bingham. The coastal area was too slow in developing and no purchaser was found for the Kennebec lands. Mr. Bingham was a very large operator and was always solvent; but the demands of the Massachusetts legislature to which he had agreed, made the Maine lands a financial hazard to him. Because of this situation he invited the Baring Bankers of London, England, to investigate and see if they would care to share the risk with his company until the tide should turn in favor of company profits.

The Barings were interested and sent Alexander Baring (age 21) to look into the business and report. Alexander was another mental prodigy and business genius. He considered the prospect to be good enough and his family took a half interest in the company. Alexander, before very long, married one of Mr. Bingham's daughters; and some time later reappears in American history as the Lord Ashburton who met with Daniel Webster to determine the true line between Maine and Canada.

During the last days of General Cobb's management of the Bingham lands in Maine, it was decided to have the Kennebec lands explored and the inhabitants, if any, counted and given title to their property. This was done and the several families living in this Bingham area were recorded in 1800. Soon after that, settlers came in considerable numbers and the Town of Bingham assumed a general structure which became the framework of what we have today.

— ROBERT C. MOORE

# Copy of Petition for Incorporation

TO THE HONORABLE the Senate and the House of Representatives, of  
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled.

*The Petition of the Inhabitants of an unincorporated place called Township No. one—first Range, east of Kennebeck River, Million Acres, County of Somerset, humbly represents, that they labour under the inconvenience of bad roads, of not having School Houses nor Schools, so in their present unincorporate situation,—to remedy those evils, your petitioners pray that the above mentioned Township together with the western boundaries being in the middle of the channel of said River, may together with the Inhabitants, be incorporated into a town, by the name of Bingham, to enjoy all the privileges, Towns in this Commonwealth, are entitled; and that the same may be exempted from the State and County Taxes for the space of ten years, or both, or either of them, for such term of time as your Honors may think proper and as in duty bound will ever pray.*

*Dated at No. 1 M. Acres  
first day of April, 1811.*

## LIST OF SIGNERS OF THE PETITION FOR INCORPORATION TOWN OF BINGHAM TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

STEPHEN PARLIN  
ASA FLETCHER, JR.  
BENJAMIN GOODRICH  
EPHRAIM HEALD  
DANIEL CHURCHILL  
AARON RICE  
CHARLES WILLEY  
ABIJAH GOODRICH  
ASA FLETCHER  
JONATHAN BOSWORTH  
JOHN WILLIAMS  
JOSHUA GOODRICH  
CALVIN PIERCE

AMHERST SPOFFORD  
JOSHUA GOODRICH, JR.  
EDWARD HOWES  
TURNER WILLEY  
OBED WILSON  
JOSEPH COOK  
IRA YOUNG  
SILAS PARLIN, JR.  
DANIEL WILLIAMS  
ISAAC WILLIAMS  
JOSHUA SMITH  
ROGER CHASE  
ABNER BAKER

(over)



To the House of Rep. 5 June 1811  
Read & Committed to the Committee  
on Towns.

Sent up for Concurrence  
(Signed) JOSEPH STORY, *Speaker*

In Senate June 5, 1811  
Read & concurred - (Signed) SAMUEL DANA, *Pres.*

In Senate Jan 9th, 1812  
Read and Committed to Committee  
on Towns & Sent down for concurrence  
(Signed) SAMUEL DANA, *Pres.*

In the House of Rep. 10 Jan. 1812  
Read & Concurred  
(Signed) JOSEPH STORY, *Speaker.*

# Town Records

THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS of Bingham Town Records are contained in thirteen bound volumes lettered in alphabetical order. The book being used for the current year is lettered Vol. M.

The books are well preserved, and with the exception of Vol. C, which is written in blue ink on blue paper, they are not difficult to read.

Vol. A, a calf-skin covered book, carries on its fly leaf in large letters this inscription: "Records of the Town of Bingham - 1812," then opens with the Article of Incorporation by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, followed by the Petition and Warrant of the first Town Meeting and the election of officers.

Ephriam Wood was elected the Town Clerk and the First Selectman. The records that he kept are in handwriting as clear to read as if they had been printed.

Ephriam Wood was born in Concord, Massachusetts, November 19, 1759. He was the son of Oliver and Lucy Wood.

Hansen's *History of Norridgewock* states that Oliver Wood came to Norridgewock about year 1774.

The late Sidney T. Goodrich of Bingham, in early writings, wrote: "In the year 1805, there settled in this place some half dozen families. Among them was a young man by the name of Ephriam Wood, a school teacher, who located here but spent part of his time teaching in different towns up and down the river from here to Norridgewock." In 1799 he married Lephie Goodrich and settled on what is now the farm of Guy Herren which extended at that time beyond the farm now owned by Mrs. Emile Fecteau. He died in Bingham, August 15, 1841. He served as Town Clerk for thirteen years.

After the incorporation of the Town of Bingham, the people went to work with purpose. Special town meetings were held often that first year of 1812, and the foundation was laid for the town now one hundred fifty years organized.

A qualified voter was a male, twenty-one years of age, and a freeholder of estate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Schools and laying out of roads was the first business acted upon, and in 1812 it was voted: "To have two School Districts on the river, and one at Fall Brook. \$125 for the use of schools to be paid in corn, rye, or wheat. That school money be divided according to the number

of scholars in each District from four years of age to twenty-one." It was also voted: "That gates be allowed to remain this year across the road."

"To let hogs run upon the common, being yoked and rung."

"To build a bridge across the main branch of Austin Stream providing that the towns above will do their proportional part in building it and not without."

"That the River Road through the town be four rods wide and the other roads in town be three rods wide."

"To pick names for the Jury box."

Schools, roads, and town poor were acted upon at every annual meeting. Officers' oaths and routine business is recorded, and from the thirteen volumes, these unusual votes have been taken:

In 1820 the town cast its votes regarding Maine becoming a state.

"To choose a committee to audit the accounts of the town."

In 1822 voted: "To repair the schoolhouse; buy a pot-ash kettle for a stove."

"That Jonothan Bosworth and Washington McIntire take care of the dogs, especially at time of public worship."

1838 voted: "Not to buy a Town Farm."

1862 voted: "To raise twelve hundred dollars by loan to pay \$100 each to twelve volunteers that have volunteered in the United States Service to make out this town's quota for the last hundred thousand called by the President of the United States."

April, 1868, voted: "By two thirds vote to subscribe for and take stock in the Somerset Railroad to the amount of \$12,000, and that the Selectmen and Town Clerk be a committee to issue bonds."

In December of that year at a special town meeting voted: "To direct the Selectmen not to pay any further assessments that may be against the Town of Bingham in favor of appropriating money to be expended in aid of construction of the Somerset Railroad until further orders from the town." This question of aiding the Somerset Railroad construction came up at many town meetings during the next fifteen years, and, according to the records, it would seem that Bingham, with other towns concerned stood a lawsuit over the question, but at last the railroad was built.

1870 voted: "To reject three names mentioned for the Jury box."

1872 voted: "To hold town meetings in Bingham Village for the next three years."

1874 voted: "To tax dogs."



1890 voted: "To build Austin Stream Bridge." Voted: "Not to build a town house."

August, 1897, voted: "To pass article for water protection and not to buy a chemical fire engine."

1900 voted: "To buy a chemical fire engine."

1903 voted: "For street lights."

1904 voted: "To buy fire engine."

1906 voted: "To allow poles and lines for Farmer's Telephone Company."

1907 voted: "To extend as right of way Murray Street to location of Somerset Railroad."

1908 voted: "To allow poles and lines for Maine Telephone and Telegraph Company."

1921 voted: "To construct a tomb."

1929 voted: "A note of thanks to the United Shoe Findings Company for land given the Town of Bingham for school playground."

1940 voted: "To accept and give a receipt for books and papers from Concord upon its de-organization."

1949 voted: "To incorporate the Bingham School District."

1959 voted: "To join with municipalities of Bingham, Moscow, Caratunk, The Forks, and West Forks to form Administrative School District 13."

Recorded on the back page of Book A is a statement of the town's stock of ammunition as of August, 1812: 25 pounds of powder, 30 pounds of balls, and 100 flints which were deposited with Joshua Goodrich, treasurer of the town.

Sheep marks were recorded in 1818.

A small copy book contains the census of the Town of Bingham taken by the Selectmen as it existed on the first day of March, 1837. The census was taken for the purpose of receiving the town's proportion of the Surplus Revenue deposited with the State of Maine by the United States, and recording the sum paid to each head of a family and other persons over twenty-one years of age, together with the amount received from said State on the first three installments. The first and second installments were received on the twentieth of April, 1837, and amountd to \$1,068.38. The third installment was received July 15, 1837, and amounted to \$333.62, making a total of \$1,402.00.

Vital Statistics were haphazard in the early years. Marriage records were kept better than birth and death records, although Ephriam

Wood, while he was clerk, made a genealogical record of the early families. It was not until the year 1892 that a State law was passed requiring that records be kept, and since that year the records are pretty accurate.

In the year 1953, upon the advice of Parker B. Stinson, Registrar of the Division of Vital Statistics, and through free service of the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City, Utah, all birth, death, and marriage records up to that date were filmed and a copy filed at the State Bureau in Augusta.

Seventeen town clerks have kept the Town Records over the period of one hundred and fifty years.

In 1952, the office of the town clerk was destroyed in the fire that burned Dutton Hotel, but the records were taken out intact, and at the annual meeting this year the Town voted to comply with the State law and construct a fireproof vault, so, when another anniversary celebration occurs, it may be that the records and the events of this anniversary can be found in that vault.

—EVA D. BACHELDER,  
*Seventeenth Town Clerk of Bingham*



The Old Ferry located where the Bingham-Concord Bridge now stands. This photograph was taken by Willis B. Goodrich in 1891 from Old Bluff Mountain looking east.



# Bingham Schools and Schoolhouses

IT WAS MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS after the first settlers came before the incorporation. Some of the settlers had brought children with them, others had started homes and families in the years between and must needs have had schools. We are told that they did have schools which were held in their own homes or in a new barn in summer. Jabez Hill has told us of William Trumble, an Englishman, also a cobbler by trade, who held a school in his cabin near the river on the west side of the town as the first school teacher. But his fondness for his cups was sometimes a drawback.

Ephraim Wood, who was one of the first two settlers, has also been described as an educated young man, who sometimes exchanged teaching for farming. No doubt the men of the settlement would have been glad to have changed work with him to have so fine a man as a teacher for their children.

One of the first problems of the new town was its schools and schoolhouses. Mrs. Eva Bachelder, our town clerk, has told us that one of the first expense accounts at their town meetings was the schools. At the first town meeting \$125 was raised for the support of schools to be paid in rye and wheat. The article to see how much money the town would raise to build schoolhouses was dismissed. Schools were still kept in the homes. The town voted to establish two Districts on the river and one on Fall Brook. Abner Baker was school agent for District No. 1, Silas Parlin for District No. 2, and Turner Willey for District No. 3. In 1813, it was voted that "each district should build its own schoolhouse and that District No. 1 should ascertain the middle of the district and there set the house."

According to the records, District No. 1 on the river was the first to build a schoolhouse, which was begun in 1814 and finished in 1815. But there is nothing in the records to tell where, what manner of house or whether it was built of logs or lumber from Joshua Goodrich's sawmill, but the story has come down through the generations that the first schoolhouse stood in front of the cemetery which had been given from the north half of Joshua Goodrich's farm on the river and, like many other early schoolhouses, was used as a place of worship as well for many years. That it was large enough to accommodate seventy or eighty, and that it was heated



at first with a great kettle of red hot coals. An interesting bit of description comes from an old letter written by Rev. Lewis Goodrich, who as a boy went to school there. "It would be amusing to some of you to see those big boys and girls pile into the old schoolhouse to the number of seventy or eighty. The old schoolhouse was near the cemetery. We were quite tame in those days—we did not know enough to be very ugly, that is we could not stop to attend to such nonsense. Beside we were the grandchildren of Grandfather and Grandmother Goodrich and could not be otherwise than pretty good."

How long it stood there or what became of it, no one remembers. But the spot has been located and a large boulder with a plaque bearing the words, "BINGHAM'S FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE 1815," placed there by the descendants of two of the early families as a permanent reminder of the old schoolhouse, of all it stood for in the town and of the men who gave us our first schools and our town.

The second schoolhouse in District No. 1 was built about 1845 or 1850 and stood on the lot near where Paul Reed's house now stands. It has been described as standing with gable end toward the street, with a door in the end opening into a large hall where two more, one on either side, opened into the school room. The floor was built on an incline with seats running east and west. The boys on the south side and the girls on the north side. The teacher's desk was at the end of the room on a raised platform. The house was heated by an iron stove on which the boys thawed their ink bottles in the winter.

This building was believed to have been moved to the lot where all schoolhouses have since stood. It must have been enlarged and remodeled for it was divided into two parts with the little school in one end and the "big school" in the other. This is where the first high schools, which were private schools, were taught with more advanced studies, for which a tuition was paid according to the studies taken. The building has been described as the old red schoolhouse, and when discarded for a more modern one, it was divided and part of it, we are told, was used in the ell of the house now owned by Joseph Bourque, and the other half was moved to the corner of the lot and used for a dwelling until that was moved away in about 1895, and also used in another house.

#### VILLAGE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLHOUSES

When the Quimby Elementary School was built in 1951, two old buildings were discarded. The older of the two which stood next to the street was built about 1878. This was a two-story building. The schools were still ungraded and the little children went downstairs to "the little school" and the older ones went upstairs to "the

big school." In the upper room of this house, the Sunday evening and mid-week prayer meetings were held until the new Congregational Church was built in 1895. The bell which called the children to school was given by the Good Templers Lodge, a temperance organization which disbanded in 1902 and left money enough to buy the bell and build the belfry. It was hung that fall, according to W. R. Jordan, superintendent, in the 1903 Town Report.

The first teachers who taught in this building were: Mrs. Carrie Blunt Lowe, daughter of Dr. Nathan F. Blunt, and her husband, Manley Lowe.

The McKinley building, which stood on the back of the lot, was built in 1894 when an increasing population caused a congestion in



SCHOOLHOUSE BUILT 1878. Miss Nellie Baker, teacher.

the schools. It was first used for the Primary grades downstairs and the Intermediate grades upstairs. Mrs. Abbie Andrews Hilton and Mrs. Cora Reynolds are remembered among the first teachers upstairs, and Miss Amy Bates, later Mrs. Charles Knapp, and Miss Lephia Dinsmore, later Mrs. J. C. Gregory, among the first teachers downstairs. Mrs. May Baker Tupper later taught in the Primary school, and will probably be remembered as having taught longer than any other.

In 1890, the town voted to adopt a certain type of textbooks and they also began to furnish the textbooks for the pupils.

It was in the 1890's that serious consideration was given to establishing a free High School in Bingham. The State was encouraging small towns to do so by giving financial help and thus making



it possible for the young people of small towns to have the advantage of more advanced studies without leaving home to attend the private schools which were not always within the reach of all.

Gradually a system of grading evolved. High School studies were added. In 1893, a class of young ladies were graduated from Bingham Grammar School. This was the first graduation from any of the Bingham schools. In 1894, another class of seven girls and one boy were graduated from the same course. The superintendent was Dr. A. A. Piper, a local physician. The teacher, Mrs. Eva Bourke, in both classes.

An attempt was made to work out a High School course which could be adapted to a one-room school. In 1891, W. R. Jordan, a young lawyer who had located here, became superintendent. That year a class of three girls and one boy were graduated from Bingham High School, and they were the first to receive High School diplomas. A class of one the next year, and another class of five were graduated in the next two years. From then, with few exceptions, classes have continued to be graduated from Bingham High.

Charles E. Ball succeeded Mr. Jordan in 1907 when we became part of the Union with several other towns under one superintendent, who could give all his time to the work. He served until 1914. During that time the school increased in numbers and improved in work until, in 1910, it became evident that they had outgrown the one-room school and the High School building on Owens Street was built.

Howard Bowen became superintendent in 1923 and served until 1943. He was followed by Hollis Ingalls.

### RURAL SCHOOLS

As the east part of the town became more populated, there were nine school districts. It is difficult at this time to locate them, as the rural section has gone back into forest lands and there have been no rural schools for many years. But we do know that District No. 1 was on the river, now Bingham Village. Number 4 was on what has been called Mahoney Hill, and No. 9 was in the Hollway neighborhood, and we believe No. 7 was the so-called Clark district. In the earlier years, schools were sometimes kept in the spare room of one of the larger homes and the teacher "boarded 'round." Some of the earlier schoolhouses were log houses. We are told that the building in the Withee district on the Lake Road was always a log schoolhouse. In another district, we are told that a log schoolhouse was burned when the man on whose land it was built was clearing land near and burning the trees. In the process it caught fire. But as each district had at first to build its own schoolhouse, some were perhaps better than others.



Mrs. Bachelder has culled from the town records a few stories:  
“In 1823, it was voted to build a schoolhouse in District No. 5 and that the building committee may each receive one tax in labor and material for the building, which is to be 16x20 ft.—and that the building be in use by June 1.”

**183851**

Also voted in 1823 to build a schoolhouse for District No. 2 (which may have been on the river road). The same to be assessed on the Polls and estates of the District. To erect it on the rise of the hill on the south side of Tom Holt's land. The building to be 20x24 ft. with 9 ft. posts with seven square windows—plastered overhead and the walls to the window stools. With a hiproof and an iron stove. “Joseph Maynard bid off the house for \$212 under the superintending school committee, Nichols Smith, Obed Wilson and Wm. McIntire.”

“In 1835 it was voted to raise \$50 to finish the school building in District No. 4 upon conditions that the town have the privilege of using it for Town Meetings free of expense.” This must have been the Mahoney Hill schoolhouse which was located near the center of the town and was used for many years for town meetings. Since the closing of the rural schools, it has been sold to Leon Atwood and is now occupied by Mrs. Marion Stockson.

Small but well built houses in No. 7, known at one time as the Clark district, and in No. 9, known as the Hollway district, also in the Gilman district which were in use as long as schools were kept in the rural section of the town. A bill for materials to be used either in building or repairing and painting a schoolhouse in District No. 8, amounting to \$41.62, was found in one of Simeon Goodrich's account books in 1853.

### *1949 to 1962 SCHOOL DISTRICTS*

The end of World War II brought an increase in population as well as an increase in prosperity. By 1949, it was necessary to find accommodations outside the regular school buildings. The basement of the Parish House of the Congregational Church was offered and accepted. Buildings to replace the two white school buildings on Main Street which were both inadequate and unsafe, became a matter for urgent consideration.

By a special act of Legislature in 1949, permission was granted to the Town of Bingham to form a School District. Edmund Melcher, who had long served on the school board, was elected president of the board, and a study of plans, finances and methods carefully made.

This project became a community effort, supported by groups and individuals who gave their time, labor and money willingly. In 1950, Mr. Melcher resigned and Mr. Glen Wing was elected in his

place. In the school report of 1951, the efforts of Mr. Earl Taylor, Wilbur Dunphy who did all the work of excavation, Allen and Langdon Quimby, Kennebec Inc., the Lions Club and the Goodwill Club are cited for their special help. It had been planned to build four rooms at once, adding the others as soon as practical financially.

In 1951, the Allen Quimby Veneer Company offered to build the remaining six rooms. Needless to say, this offer was gratefully accepted, and the town voted to raise funds in order to build the gymnasium.

The two old white schools that had done service for so many years were moved, the long one-story elementary school and adjoining gymnasium were built and dedicated with ceremony January 5, 1952.

Some changes were made at once. A sub-primary department was installed and Mrs. Alma Gilman, who had previously had a kinder-



New Upper Kennebec Valley Memorial High School of School Administrative District, No. 13, built at a cost of \$500,000 is nearing completion. Located on an elevation on the east side of the Town of Bingham, the greater part of the building is surrounded by trees. Photo taken from the end of Goodrich Street by Eva D. Bachelder.

garten as a private enterprise, was hired as the teacher, a position she still holds. New courses were added both in the elementary schools and in the High School. Edward Dingley was hired as coach and to instruct in physical education. Soon afterward a driver-training course was included in the new curriculum.

Mr. Hollis Ingalls, superintendent through the years of construction, resigned to accept a position in Machias, Maine, and Mr. Robert P. Brown was hired to replace him.

There was little time for the community to rest on its laurels. A growing need of space and facilities in the High School built in 1910 began to trouble the citizens who were interested in problems of education. Meetings were held several times during 1958-1959 to



study the Sinclair Act with a view to joining several towns and organizing a School Administrative District.

The first attempts at such organization met with opposition in several areas, but the need was so obvious that in September 1959, School Administrative District No. 13 was legally organized and established. Bingham directors are: Arthur Gamache, one year; Wilbur Dunphy, two years; Bernard Austin, three years. Moscow: Laurel Clark, one year; Alice Beane, two years; James Cahill, three years. Caratunk: Garth Merrill, one year; Walter York, two years. The Forks: Alma Morris, two years; Irene Campbell, three years. West Forks: Edmund Comber, one year; Carroll York, three years.

The building overlooking the valley should be a source of pride to all communities, groups and individuals who have given of their time and money to forward its erection. It will be dedicated to the memory of the veterans of the two World Wars and the men engaged during the Korean Conflict, who served from the various towns of School Administrative District No. 13, and from Pleasant Ridge, as The Upper Kennebec Valley Memorial High School.

— MRS. ELIZABETH G. JORDAN



BINGHAM BAND—Taken 1890 or '91—Left to right: George Dyer, small drum; Arlie Dinsmore, cymbals; Sam Smith, bass drum; George Dyer, Elmer Baker, Forrest Colby, Albert Cassidy, H. H. Patten, Ervin Moore, Fred Preble, Guy Baker, Arthur Dinsmore, Bardwell Baker, Byram Smith, Oscar Lander. Back of Sam Smith, at corner of the house is Ephraim Baker. Back of George Dyer is Hiram Smith. Going in at back door, no doubt is Milford Goodrich as he lived there at the time.



# Religious Influences and Churches

“**I**N GOD WE TRUST” was the motto of our Founding Fathers, and the men and women who went out to develop the new country, build new homes, and establish new towns must needs take it with them. Life in an unknown land with new problems, demanded a faith like Abraham’s, and they brought their religion with them. Family worship was established early in their homes, and thanks were given ere they ate their simple meals. Hospitality abounded, and it was said of one home that an extra plate was always laid for the possible stranger who might come that way. The Sabbath was revered and strictly observed. They became daily aware of their needs, not only of material things, but those of the mind and heart which bound them together as they shared each other’s problems. Lacking a public place, their homes and even a clean new barn became a place for neighboring groups to gather for some simple form of worship and to keep their faith alive.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Mrs. Elizabeth Goodrich, wife of Joshua Goodrich, Jr., was a leading spirit in these things, and soon after coming here she organized what was called a “Society Meeting” which met every Sabbath at her home, unless perchance, some missionary or minister from the older towns below found his way up the river to hold a preaching service. “This paved the way,” wrote her pastor many years later, “for the organization of the Congregational Church.” This Church was organized on July 24th, 1805, by two missionaries, the Reverend Alexander McLean from the American Tract Society, and the Reverend Jotham Sewell of the Massachusetts Missionary Society. It became the first organized body above Carratunk Falls.

The membership was very small at first and growth was slow. There were only eight members besides Mrs. Goodrich. They were: Joseph Russell, Ephraim Wood, Josiah Heald, Sarah Fletcher, Betsy (Goodrich) Russell, Lephe (Goodrich) Wood, Bridget Heald and Alles Whipple.

Even after the organization of the Church there was still no place for public worship. In 1815 the first schoolhouse was built and this was used for many years for both worship and school. “A very useful

building," wrote Lewis G. Goodrich, "a place held dear to many of us where we took our first lessons in learning and religion."

By 1836, the town had increased in size and prosperity. In response to Mrs. Goodrich's oft repeated words, "You are building better homes for yourselves, but none for God," the Union Free Meeting House Society was formed, the old white Church on the hill below the village was built, and was dedicated on October 29th, 1836. The Rev. Obed Wilson preached the dedicatory sermon.

There were in the community at this time people of various religious persuasions: Congregationalists, Methodists, Universalists, and Baptists. The Church building was so arranged that any one of the various denominations might have the use of it at some time. There were fifty-two pews, one for each Sunday of the year, and any person owning a pew might, if he wished, choose the minister to preach on the Sunday corresponding to the number of his pew. However, since the Congregational Church was the only organized group, it soon became a home to them, and in March, 1837, the Rev. Josiah Tucker was installed as first pastor. For the next twenty-five years the Church was not long without a minister, and it increased both in numbers and usefulness.

In 1863 the Revere Bell was purchased and brought here from Skowhegan. It had been purchased in Boston originally in 1820. It made the journey from Skowhegan by ox-team. It was placed in the belfry and often rang out Union victories as well as for Church services. It still is rung on special occasions.

In 1892, when Rev. James C. Gregory, a young minister, became the Pastor, the Church had begun to feel the need of a building with more room for its activities, the work of the Church and for its young people. Under the leadership of Mr. Gregory the Church on Meadow Street was built at a cost of \$7,851.23. It was dedicated, free of debt, December 15, 1895. Again the Church felt an increase in interest and larger opportunity for service.

In 1905, while William R. Richmond was pastor, the Church observed its Centennial with services on both Sunday and Monday. Up until this time the Congregational Church had received financial assistance from the Maine Missionary Society and it celebrated its anniversary by becoming self-supporting. Four years later, in 1909, when Rev. Thomas B. Hatt became pastor, the parsonage was built at a cost of \$2,631.11. This building has served as a home for our ministers since that time.

In 1923 Arthur R. Macdougall, then a student at Bangor Seminary, accepted a call to become pastor. Among the changes made



during his pastorate was the reorganization and incorporation of the Church body, and the building of the Parish House to accommodate the needs of the Church School and the activities of the young people and other church work. At present still more space for this work is needed.

In 1955 the Church observed its Sesquicentennial with appropriate services. During the 157 years of its existence, twenty-one men have served as pastor for one or more years. They are: Rev. Josiah Tucker, 1837-1841; Rev. Cyrus Stone, 1841-1843; Rev. Henry Smith, 1845-1846; Rev. Sydney Turner, 1846-1857; Rev. George Fargo, part-time, 1847-1858; Rev. George Hathway, 1861-1862; Rev. John K. Deering, supply, 1863-1865; Henry O. Thayer, 1865-1867; Rev. William Rand, 1869-1870.

Rev. Albert H. Thomson, 1877-1879; the Rev. Mr. Edwards, 1882-1884; Rev. T. F. Millett, 1884-1890; Rev. G. W. Hamilton, 1890-1892; Rev. J. C. Gregory, 1892-1900; Rev. George Wright, 1900-1902; William Richmond, 1903-1909; Rev. T. B. Hatt, 1909-1920; Rev. C. W. Robinson, 1920-1922; Dr. Arthur R. Macdougall, 1923-1959. Lowell G. Kjenstad began his present service as pastor in 1959.

Ministers serving longest have been Rev. Sydney Turner, Rev. T. B. Hatt and Rev. Dr. Arthur R. Macdougall. The Rev. Henry Smith, Rev. Sydney Turner, the Rev. Albert H. Thompson, and Dr. Arthur Macdougall were ordained here.

These twenty-two men have served as deacons: Joseph Russell, Ephraim Wood, Allen Baker, Nathan Baker, Gilbert Greenwood, T. F. Houghton, Albert Burke, Sydney T. Goodrich, Edwin S. Baker, Henry O. Chase, Fred P. Saunders, Lewis Baker, Charles A. Foss, Harry Cummings, Elmer Baker, Allen P. Robinson, Ruben H. Crombie, E. Hugh Matheson, Rudolph Quint, and Donald Walker.

### *THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CIRCLE*

Prior to 1893 there was no women's organization connected with the Church here, but the women of that day were eager to take an active part in the life and work of the Church. The subject of the organization of a ladies group for this purpose was discussed at great length by both the men and women. As a result of this discussion, a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Sidney Goodrich and the MISSION CIRCLE was organized with Mrs. Goodrich as its first president and Mrs. Viola Colby, the first vice-president. The object of this society was to raise money for the Church, for the Maine Missionary Society—from whom this Church was receiving help at the time—and to form a center of social activities for the women of the community.



About this time the idea was beginning to form of building a new Congregational Church, and to this end, the women of the newly formed organization began working. It was a huge undertaking for this little group and presented a tremendous amount of work. Their first efforts, a Church Bazaar, netted the sum of \$250.00, which immediately started the fund for the new Church. For the first two years this group was absorbed in raising money for this project. Innumerable sales, suppers, exhibitions, minstrel shows and ice cream



The Old Church and Horseshed Built in 1836.

socials were held, and when the new Church was dedicated in 1895, free from debt, it was certainly due in no small part to this valiant group of women.

Some of the earlier names connected with this group are: Mrs. Viola Colby, Mrs. Julia Colby, Mrs. Dora Goodrich, Mrs. Clara Bray, Mrs. Rose Lander, Mrs. Emily Savage, Mrs. Alice Goodrich, Mrs. Delia Webster, Mrs. Lephe Preble, Mrs. Sarah Milliken, Mrs. Sue Preble, "Aunt" Lydia Russell, and Mrs. Martha Turner. Not all were charter members but joined the group in the early days.

The name of the society was later changed to the CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CIRCLE, which it is today. The object of the organization is the same as when the MISSION CIRCLE was formed—to help the Church in all its endeavors and to aid in all worthwhile projects. A yearly pledge is made to the Church and to the WORLD WIDE MISSION GOAL as well as contributing to many charitable organizations.

The Circle has played a large part in finishing and furnishing our present Parish House, Sunday School classrooms, needed repairs and furnishings for the Church, equipment of chimes and carillon recordings, an amplifying system, and repairs and equipment wherever needed.

Mrs. Hans Hansen is the current president and Mrs. Donald Whitman the vice-president. The CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CIRCLE is still a hard-working group, but much satisfaction and enjoyment is derived withal.

Too much credit cannot be given those early pioneers whose devotion to a life of service to the Church is an inspiration to those who follow.

— MRS. LINWOOD F. SMITH, *a past president*

### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

From early times there was a small, but faithful, group of Methodist people who were for some years a part of the Methodist Church in Solon. In 1895 it was divided and Rev. Joseph Moulton became its first pastor. Their services were held in a little upper room in the building which stands just behind the White Cash Market now. The room had previously been furnished for a place of worship by a Baptist group that was in existence here for a few years. In 1897, under Rev. W. T. Chapman, who, I believe, also served the Solon Church, they came into possession of the Old Union Church after the Congregationalists built their new Church on Meadow Street. Their first ten pastors were: Rev. Joseph Moulton, 1895-97; Rev. W. T. Chapman, 1897; Rev. H. G. Hemmas, 1898; R. V. Davis, 1898; Rev. Robert Scott, 1899; Fred McNeil, 1902; Rev. James Renfrew, 1904; O. G. Wyman, 1905; W. C. Beedy, 1907; and Louis Swan, 1911.

In 1905, under Rev. O. G. Wyman, a parsonage was built on the adjoining lot. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Woodard. From 1913 through 1916 it was again united with Solon, with Rev. H. C. Glidden supplying.

About this time they decided to build a new Church nearer the center of the village. The old Union Church was sold to the Kennebec Chapter of the D.A.R., and the smaller building on Meadow Street was built and dedicated June 19, 1917, with Bishop Edwin H. Hughes of Boston leading the dedicatory service. Rev. Charles Berry was the first pastor in the new building. Mrs. Arnold Moore, whose husband was pastor of the Solon Church, supplied the Church in 1922-23. They had been missionaries in India. Rev. Mary Sampson, formerly missionary to South America, was pastor here in 1927-28. About this



time Mrs. Etta Holt, one of the oldest and most faithful members of the Church, died and other older members having already passed away, the Church again became part of the parish of Solon, and finally passed out of existence. The building reverted to the Conference and was sold and used as a garage until the Church of the Nazarene purchased it in 1956.

### *BAPTISTS IN BINGHAM*

The people in the rural section of the town, particularly in the southeastern part, were organized in a Free Will Baptist Church at one time. There was no Meeting House, services being held in the schoolhouses or in the homes. Quarterly meetings were led by ministers of the denomination from outside. Services were sometimes conducted by local men who were licensed or ordained to preach—sometimes called "Schoolhouse Preachers."

They kept alive the spark of faith needful for a group of people who were more or less isolated from the section of the town and people along the river by the low-lying hills and by the lack of good roads.

A small group of Baptists kept up an organization for a short time in the village, using a room in a building on Baker Street as a place of worship. Another group was organized as a Baptist Church in Moscow for a time.

### *ST. PETER'S CHURCH*

For many years the parish priests of Skowhegan's Notre Dame de Lourdes Church were responsible for the few families living in the Bingham area at that time. When Madison had its first pastor, Bingham became a mission of that town.

A plot of land was given by Mr. John Owens, Sr. to be used as a site of a chapel. Later more land was bought and added to it.

A chapel was built about 1915 or 1916 under the direction of the Rev. Mathew Curran, then pastor of Madison and serving the local mission. It was dedicated by the Most Rev. Louis Walsh, Bishop of Portland, and was given the name of St. Peter the Apostle.

On November 28th, 1920, Rev. John O. Holohan became its first pastor, undertaking also the missions of Solon, North Anson, Caratunk and The Forks. The Catholic population was about thirty-five families.

When the Allen Quimby Veneer Company began operating, the number of communicants increased to the point where more room was necessary. In 1950, under the able direction of Father Madore,



the Church was enlarged and renovated, with a new sanctuary, sacristy and altar, and new pews. The remodelled Church was blessed by the Most Reverend Daniel J. Feeney, Coadjutator Bishop of Portland, October 15, 1950.

The Church contains memorial windows to some of the earlier families. The windows are in memory of Joseph and Mary B. Pooler, Mary E. McCollar, Philip J. and Mary A. Mahoney, Agnes B. Fitzmorris, Margery D. Cahill, Thomas and Mary A. Donigan, Elizabeth M. Cassidy, George Collins, Michael W. and Margaret F. Donahue, John and Eliza Kelley, and Michael and Julia Curran.

The following list of names are those of the pastors who have served at St. Peter's: Rev. John H. Holohan, Nov. 1920 to Nov. 1922; Rev. James Mullen, Nov. 1922 to Jan. 1923; Rev. Morris Carroll, Jan. 1923 to Jan. 1926; Rev. S. Raemers, Jan. 1926 to June 1926; Rev. Pierre W. Hamel, June 1926 to Oct. 1928; Rev. Philip Dube, Oct. 1928 to Feb. 1936; Rev. Napoleon Madore, Feb. 1936 to Sept. 1952; Rev. Gaston Auger, Sept. 1952 to Mar. 17, 1962. The present pastor is the Rev. Paul Roberge who came March 17th of this year.

### *THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE*

The Church of the Nazarene was born in a revival at the beginning of the twentieth century. This revival was of the New Testament teachings and ministry of John Wesley during England's eighteenth century. Services of this Church were first held in Bingham during the summer of 1955.

The Bingham services were first held in a tent on a vacant lot. After a short time, the meetings were transferred to the Fraternity Hall where Sunday morning services were conducted. The present pastor, the Rev. Keith E. Smith, came to Bingham in September, 1955, to continue this work. From an attendance of six worshippers on the first Sunday, the growth of the Church has steadily increased. Today there are some one hundred fifty individuals affiliated with the Church. As part of the Church's yearly calendar, special meetings are held twice yearly with visiting evangelists.

On November 20, 1955, the Sunday morning services were moved to the Moscow Elementary School Auditorium. The Nazarene Young People's Society began holding Sunday evening services at this time at the pastor's residence. On the first Easter Sunday, April 8, 1956, there were one hundred thirty-four worshippers in attendance.

A revival with the Rev. Mel-Thomas Rothwell led to the official organization of the Church April 22, 1956, with twenty-four charter

members. At this time, the Rev. Keith E. Smith was appointed pastor by the district superintendent of the New England Church of the Nazarene.

A red letter day for the new Church was June 30, 1956, when the Church mortgage papers and title deeds were signed for the purchase of the old Methodist Church building in Bingham, and an adjoining piece of property. A house on this property was to become the parsonage.

Communion was observed on the first Sunday in the new Church, July 8, 1956. At this time, Sunday evening church services were added. The first baptism was held at Wyman Lake during this summer.

During the summer of 1956, the interior of the Church, which had become a blackened shell in recent years, was washed by the young people. Large truck doors behind the pulpit area were replaced with a solid wall. The Church had been built originally in 1915 by the Methodists and was used by them for some fourteen years. After standing idle for a number of years, it was finally sold and turned into a garage, and later into a blacksmith shop.

In 1957, the Nazarenes began a program to restore the Church property. Work done on the Church building this year included new woodwork, plastered walls, a lowered sanctuary ceiling, tiled flooring, repair of the stained glass windows, new pulpit furnishings, an altar, and rest rooms.

A summer vacation Bible school, participation in camp meetings, and a children's summer camp were added to the Church's program.

During the late fall of 1960, the Church's basement dirt floor was cemented and Sunday School department and classrooms, plus a nursery and fellowship hall, were built. The Sunday School became departmentalized. New lighting fixtures were placed throughout the Church.

Church pews were installed and a fence was built to enclose part of the Church's property in 1961. This same year, the parsonage, which was repaired to some degree in 1956, was completely modernized.

During the present year the sanctuary has been re-plastered and the walls painted. A pastor's study and office has been built on the second floor of the Church. An electric two-manual reed organ has been installed.

Dedication of the Church and parsonage is planned for the fall of this Sesquicentennial year.



# Post Offices

SIDNEY T. GOODRICH in his Historical Sketch written for the Bingham Centennial in 1912 said that in 1812 mail was brought on horseback once a week and left at a Post which was someone's house designated by the town. In 1862 the mail was brought from Skowhegan three times a week by the old four-horse mail coach. The Postmaster was Benjamin F. Moore in what is now The Little Shop. In 1912 mail came three times a day by train. The Post Office at that time was located in the building where the White Cash Market is and Fred W. Preble was the Postmaster. In 1962, there were two mails a day by U. S. mail trucks to present location.

According to a letter to Gerard Guay, our present Postmaster, a Post Office was established in Bingham in 1825 with Levi G. Fletcher as Postmaster. The mail may have been kept at his house, which was located on what is now Lawyer Harwood's lawn at the corner of Main and Murray Streets. Fletcher, who has been called the first store-keeper, sold goods from his home previous to building the store on the other side of the street about 1826.

Benjamin Smith, II, was probably located in a small shop which stood nearly where Moore's Drugstore stands. Postmaster December 15, 1838.

March 29, 1839, Washington McIntire had settled on the farm last occupied by Frank Savage and it is not known whether he had mail left at that place or whether he received it in some place in the village.

The name David White, January 4, 1840, is not known to the writer, nor where he received and distributed mail at this time.

William Rowell, July 7, 1841.

Cyrus Hunter, November 28, 1845, lived in the house where the Library is now located and owned a blacksmith shop on the opposite side of the street. He must have cared for the mail at one of these points.

Benjamin Smith, II, April 12, 1847. Whether he still occupied the little shop at the upper end of Main Street or the large two-story house and store where he lived and conducted a store for many years is not known.

Benjamin F. Moore, March 2, 1862, was in "The Little Shop" now owned by Florence Murray.

Simeon Goodrich, November 29, 1865, was in his store which is now occupied by Clayton Andrews. Apparently his tenure was a long.



one as the next Postmaster was Willis B. Goodrich, December 5, 1878, his nephew, who succeeded him in the store. The Post Office continued to remain in the same place.

The next Postmaster was Fred C. Dinsmore, February 13, 1886, not known, only that at one time he was located in a store which was built by Joel Colby. It may have been there.

Willis B. Goodrich again received the appointment June 1, 1889. Back to the Goodrich store again where it had been before.

He was succeeded by Moses Thompson, March 30, 1893, who occupied the building where the White Cash Market is now. This building was fitted up for a Post Office on the street floor. Miss Belle Clark, a sister of Albert Clark of Caratunk, was assistant Postmaster a part of his term, and succeeded him February 25, 1897. She was followed by her sister, Mary E. Clark, February 17, 1897. On her marriage to Dr. John Piper she was succeeded by Fred W. Preble June 9, 1909.

Albert F. Donigan, who owned and operated the Donigan Clothing & Furniture Store at the corner of Main and Preble Streets, was the next Postmaster, receiving his commission August 1, 1913. It was never in his store, but the building now occupied by Hill's Store and Frances Beauty Shop was built by him to be used as a Post Office and continued to be the Post Office until the Government contracted to lease a building from Mrs. Anna Howes, which was built in the late twenties for the Augusta Trust Company.

A. F. Donigan's term was completed by George L. Baker who served from December, 1916, to September 30, 1929. His term was completed by Fred W. Preble from September 30, 1929 and until March 15, 1930, when the appointment went to Forrest H. Gilman. He was followed July 28, 1934 by Harold Collins. The move to the new quarters took place while he was Postmaster. Mr. Collins died while in office and was succeeded by the present Postmaster, Gerard Guay, who received his appointment May 31, 1957.

From a one-man job in a home or store the continuing growth of population has increased the work of the office, which serves Moscow, Pleasant Ridge and Concord as well as Bingham patrons. Serving with Postmaster Guay at the present time are Wilfred Small, Edward Bray, Mrs. Pearle Chasse and Stanley Hill. During the past year an R. F. D. has been established which delivers mail throughout Moscow.

— MRS. ELIZABETH JORDAN



# Taverns, Hotels, Etc.

## THE STAGE HOUSE

IN THE YEAR 1795 Levi Goodrich purchased from William Fletcher a lot of land containing one hundred acres, located in the central part of Bingham Village from east to west, and built a small house near the bank of the Kennebec River approximately where the residence of Archie Kelly now stands. In 1822 Mr. Goodrich built a two-story frame building on the west side of the County Road, conveniently located for the stage and travelers, which Mr. Goodrich and



VIEW OF MAIN STREET, BINGHAM. A. C. Dinsmore's shop second on the left.

his wife operated as a tavern for many years. This was the first tavern ever built above Caratunk Falls in Solon, and for many years was the only tavern on the Kennebec to accommodate the traveling public.

About 1835 a stage company began putting up at the tavern with meals at seventeen cents. From this time on the place seems to have been the home for the stage which ran from Bingham to The Forks and back, and for many years gave the house the title of "The Stage House" which housed woodsmen and river drivers from various lumber camps.

Pickard Goodrich followed his father Levi in proprietorship, taking over the property with the agreement that he was to give them



a home and care for the remainder of their lives. In the year 1844 Pickard Goodrich sold to Winthrop Eldridge who, with Nate Adams, operated the place. Included in this deed were the following stipulations: "Thence East to a bound, reserving a passage between two stables which are to be kept clear at all times so that an ox team can pass and repass. Also a common right to the well at the stable together with Tavern stand and buildings and stables thereon with all provisions thereunto belonging." Dated April 11, 1844. In 1856 it was occupied by Jotham Goodrich. In the late sixties and early seventies it was closed to the public and used as a tenement house for a short time and owned by a Mr. Toby.

Soon after Sewell Dinsmore and George Savage purchased the place, it was remodeled, enlarged and opened to the public with Mr. and Mrs. Savage in charge. Following Mr. Savage it was owned by Mr. Lander, Alonzo Adams, and Henry Fletcher. About 1890 Henry Washburn purchased the property, later bought an ell from the old Bingham Hotel located in the upper part of town, moved it to his lot and it was known as the Hotel Annex which housed his family and an occasional transient from the hotel. After Mr. Washburn's death the hotel was managed by Mrs. Lillian Washburn, Mr. and Mrs. John Witham, and about 1914 was sold to Frank Gipson who was proprietor for several years. The place was then known as Bingham Hotel.

Jessie Washburn Hamilton, daughter of the late Henry and Lillian Washburn, sold to Clarence W. Dutton in 1918. At the time of purchase there remained over the office door the sign "Calk Shoes Not Allowed" which was a great mystery to tourists in later years. The purchase included the hotel stables and in 1920 held forty driving horses for hire. This barn was burned in 1929 along with several pair of horses, cattle and pigs, twenty automobiles, many of which were used by employees of the Central Maine Power Company and State Highway Commission, then guests of the hotel.

Improvements and several additions were made during the thirty years Mr. Dutton was in the hotel, one of which was the purchase of adjoining property north of the hotel, from the heirs of Etta Holt and formerly known as the Benjamin Smith house. A three-story building connecting the two properties was erected in 1929 and 1930. Mr. Dutton conducted the hotel under the name of Dutton Hotel until his death in 1948. After that his wife, Lois B. Dutton, operated the hotel making a home for some twenty-seven regular guests, some of whom were there for twelve and fourteen years, along with many transients.



This old house could have told of a great deal of hard work, many hilarious times, a few heartaches and much pleasure, finally ending its career with a tragic fire on March 23rd, 1952, taking with it the lives of two guests, two employees and hospitalizing many others.

In the summer of 1952 the lot was sold to Robie Howes who later sold to The Federal Trust Company of Waterville and in 1956 our bank was built approximately where the hotel stood for one hundred and thirty years.

### *THE OLD BINGHAM HOTEL — HOLBROOK HOUSE*

Sewell and Chandler Baker built a tavern known as The Old Bingham Hotel at the north end of the village about 1842, near where the Bingham Post Office is now located. In April, 1855, it burned. After the fire Chandler and Sewell divided the property and Chandler took the tavern and lot, rebuilding. He sold to Frank Jones who sold to Warren Holbrook. This house had a small hall on the second floor which for many years was the only public gathering place for lectures, dances, small traveling shows, etc. At one time a dancing school was conducted by Amon Baker, violinist, and his sister, Isannah Moore, at the organ. Mr. Holbrook sold to Sewell Dinsmore and Henry Washburn who converted it into tenements. It was burned in 1911.

### *HOTEL CAHILL*

Thomas D. Cahill built a colonial type home with high pillars and a wide porch across the front, at the upper end of the village on the east side of Main Street behind where Bingham Post Office is now located. This house was elaborately furnished and contained valuable paintings, statuary and imported rugs and was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Cahill and family during the summer months vacation from Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Mr. Cahill was connected with the Sphinx Club at Harvard College. About 1922 it was converted into a hotel and, with the assistance of Mrs. Cahill and his sister, Miss Marie Cahill, was opened to the public during the summer. It was burned in 1934, and at that time had not been operated for several years. It was owned by Thomas D. Cahill, Jr.; his sister, Mrs. Eleanor Cahill Wright; and aunt, Miss Marie Cahill.

### *THE YELLOW BOWL INN*

In the year 1919, Mrs. Grace Rollins purchased from Elwin Robinson property adjoining her south line. The house, which was one of the older ones in town, was occupied from 1884 to 1890 by the Rev. T. F. Millett and family. At that time there was no parsonage

in Bingham. Later, Benjamin Steward, a long-time employee of the Maine Central Railroad, also lived there, and many others.

After extensive renovations and additions, Mrs. Rollins opened the buildings to the public in 1928. In the front yard an old-fashioned iron kettle was placed, painted a brilliant yellow and the place was named the Yellow Bowl Inn. The kettle came from the farm in Concord where Mrs. Rollins was born and was used by her grandfather for making potash.

For several summers part of the buildings were leased to Errol and Harriet Hilton, who conducted a tea room, and was later operated by Mrs. Rollins. Since her death, her daughter, Miss Annie Rollins, has been the proprietress.

### TOURIST CAMPS

In 1928 and 1929 Earl Folsom built nine cottages to accommodate some of the increase in population during the building of the Wyman Dam. These cottages were located on the west side of lower Main Street on what is now known as Lander Avenue. Since that time they have been converted into very attractive tourist camps with flowers, shrubbery and well kept lawns and were open to the public during the summer months. Since Mr. Folsom's death in 1952 they are being managed by Mrs. Bessie Folsom.

About one mile below the village was a large farm owned by Hosea Whipple and operated as a milk farm. It was sold to Henry Lane and Vernard Pierce who built two log cabins nearby, renovated the main house and it was opened to the public; later it was purchased by Mont Beane who built more camps along the bank of the Kennebec River and called it Maple Wood Spring Camps. He in turn sold to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stait who operated the camps during the summer for several years then in 1959 sold to Stanton Beane who now occupies it and has made extensive renovations. A sixteen-unit motel is in the process of construction and will be ready for occupancy during the summer. The summer of 1961 the camps were operated by Gerard Guay and family.

Many hotels, tourist homes, rooming and boarding houses have appeared and disappeared in this span of years from 1822 to the present 1962.

— MRS. LOIS B. DUTTON



# Militia

THE FOLLOWING STORY is based on an article that appeared in the Waterville *Sentinel*.

An account of the activities of the Bingham Militia has been found among early records in the unorganized township of Concord. The book was found by Dr. Anna Howes. An ancestor of her husband, Davis Howes, had been in the Militia and it probably came into their home at that time.

Although the ink is faded and faint, many sections are clearly legible. It covers two decades beginning with 1819. It has one entry dated October 7, 1819. The second entry, dated in 1820, refers to the group as Maine Militia. Stephen Parlin, the first captain, and believed to have organized the group, came originally from Concord, Massachusetts, by way of Norridgewock.

This small book records much of Home Defense activity in Bingham, Cornville, Brighton, Moscow and Solon, and refers to other towns in the vicinity. It was a part of the Second Regiment, First Brigade, Eighth Division.

In the inspection record of 1822 is an order from David Gilman, then local commander, to Stephen Otis "to warn and give four days notice to all non-commissioned officers and privates enrolled by law under my command to appear with required arms and equipment at the schoolhouse near Calvin Russell's place in the west half of the town." Each town furnished its own arms and equipment. Fines were levied on those who skipped drill. Entries appear of a cash note for \$1.13, and one for \$1.30 paid as fines. One member being unable to raise the cash for a fine, delivered a yoke of two-year old steers to the Company. The David Gilman mentioned was the father of Charles Gilman who served in the Civil War, great grandfather of Forest Gilman who served in World War I, and great great grandfather of Clarence Gilman who served in the second World War.

The uniform as described in an order dated June 16th, 1830, by Chandler Baker, Clark (clerk) consisted of "blue pantaloons, white jacket with red collar and cuffs, black hat with red plume and plate." Soldiers were advised to "hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice."

Enlistments for musicians were for seven-year periods. Among those enrolled May 7th, 1922, were: Asa Churchill, fife; David Thompson, drum; Caleb Moses, bass drum.



A certain amount of prestige, both social and military, was acquired by the men who served in the Militia, and military titles earned in this service often were attached to the men throughout their lives, as was the case of Captain Nathan Baker.

It is certain that these early citizens served willingly because of the protection afforded by such a group in those uncertain times.



ROBERT MOORE HOME — Built about 1830.

# Bingham Veterans

IN THE YEAR THAT BINGHAM became incorporated the country was engaged in war with England. Many of the first settlers had served in the War for Independence and many of the men and, more lately, women have served their county in wartime.

The following lists are as accurate as possible, but since some men who were natives enlisted from other towns, or from schools or colleges, their names do not appear on the roles. In other cases, the names of men who lived in the surrounding towns without post offices, are often listed as Bingham.

## REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS — BINGHAM, MAINE

Andrews, Jonathan	Decker, David	Kirk, Joseph
Briggs, Samuel	Fletcher, William	Russell, Calvin
Chamberlain, Moses	Goodrich, Joshua Jr.	Russell, Joseph
Chase, Roger	Jones, Lazarua	

## WAR OF 1812

Amherst, Spofford	Amherst, Spofford 2nd	Moore, Luther
	Parlin, Abel	

## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Adams, Erastus	Bean, Joseph, Jr.	Dinsmore, John W.
Adams, George	Bean, Levi	Dinsmore, Thomas H.
Adams, Jesse	Blunt, Nathan	Dunton, David H.
Adams, Jonathan	Beals, George	Dunton, Frank
Adams, Philip	Beals, Timothy	Dunton, O. Cromwell
Adams, William	Brown, Charles	Durgin, Jeremiah, Jr.
Adams, Winthrop	Brown, George	Durgin, Jeremiah 2nd
Anderson, Columbus S.	Brown, T. B.	Durgin, Joseph
Anderson, Willard	Brown, Nathaniel P.	Durgin, W. Henry
Andrews, Asa	Brown, Jonathon E.	Durgin, John H.
Atwood, Lincoln	Brown, Lyman G.	Ellis, Samuel B.
Baker, Abner	Brown, William A.	Ellis, Sumner
Baker, Charles	Bumpus, A. Sylvester	Fee, Daniel C.
Baker, Cyrus C.	Cassidy, Edward	Foss, Kingman
Baker, Cyrus M.	Chamberlain, Ruel	Fraine, John H.
Baker, Ephraim	Chamberlain, S. A.	French, Oliver
Baker, Leonard	Chase, Edward	Garvin, Patrick
Baker, Levi	Chase, Ephraim	Glidden, Albert N.
Baker, Luther	Chase, Harlow	Goodrich, Hosea B.
Baker, Sylvester	Chase, Howard B.	Goodrich, Joseph H.
Baker, Tilson H.	Chase, George	Goodrich, Sprague
Baker, Dow C.	Chase, Nathan D.	Graham, James
Baker, Horatio B.	Chase, Lewis C.	Greenwood, Calvin R.
Baker, Wellington	Chase, T. Sylvester	Greenwood, Israel
Bates, Alfred	Church, James W.	Greenwood, William B.
Bean, Danville L.	Collins, William H.	Givens, Charles
Bates, Jarod	Daggett, Isaac T.	Hall, Cyrus, Sr.
Bean, Jeremiah	Decker, Wm. A.	Hall, Elijah



Harriman, John	McCollar, Peter	Rollins, Andrew J.
Healy, Jacob S.	McCollor, Michael 1st	Sands, Henry
Heald, Amos	McCollor, Phineas	Smith, Byron R.
Henrenus, John	McCrillis, Daniel	Smith, John
Hill, Jeremiah	McCrillis, Nathaniel	Smith, Samuel S.
Holden, Austin R.	McFadden, Manny	Spaulding, Joseph P.
Holt, Calvin R.	McNeal, John	Spaulding, Levi
Holway, Calvin	McNeely, Joseph	Spaulding, William H.
Holway, Watson	McKinley, John	Steward, Joseph
Hughes, James	Messer, Ellingford	Steward, William
Hunter, Lauriston F.	Messer, James B.	Spaulding, Nathan F.
Hall, Cyrus, Jr.	Moore, Webster D.	Temple, Luther
Hunt, Philander C.	Moulton, Oliver H.	Thompson, Octavius
Johnson, Henry A.	Murphy, Melvin N.	Towne, Abishai
Jones, Lyman S.	Nottage, William	Towne, Hartwell
Jones, Ruel W.	O'Hara, James	Towne, Philander C.
Kellett, Homas J.	Packard, George R.	Tozier, Daniel S.
Knight, Charles	Pierce, Charles	Turner, Charles
Knight, William J.	Pierce, James	Turner, Sumner
Longley, George M.	Pierce, John	Vigue, Louis
Longley, Joseph	Pierce, Obed W.	Vittum, Ambrose E.
Love, John	Pierce, Reuben B.	Vittum, Elisha
Love, Robert	Pierce, Sewell B.	Vittum, Samu
Love, William	Pooler, James	Webster, Hannibal
Lowell, William	Powers, John	Webster, William
Maxim, Philander C.	Rogers, Frank	Whipple, Edmund
McCollar, James	Rogers, James F.	Williams, F. L.
McCollar, John	Rogers, Lemuel	Williams, D. H.
McCollar, Thomas	Rowe, Luther B.	Young, Henry
McCollar, Michael 2nd	Russell, Delano	Young, Irving S.

## WORLD WAR VETERANS — W. W. I

Andrews, Earle E.	Foss, William	Lister, Perley B.
*Beane, Stanley	Gallant, Benjamin R.	McCollar, Frank
Bray, Cecil O.	Gilman, Forrest I.	McTaggart, Donld G.
Carl, Leroy R.	Goff, Donald L.	Moore, Robert C.
Cassidy, Mark	Goodell, Llewellyn	Padham, Floyd L.
Cilley, Moses L.	Gordon, John A.	Parlin, Stanley B.
Collins, Stean M.	Hawes, Harry	Phelps, Charles W.
Dinsmore, Harry A.	Hilton, Charles R.	Robinson, Alston H.
Dinsmore, Herbert B.	Hilton, Errold F.	Rogers, Allan D.
Doyle, Forrest A.	Hopkins, Percival O.	Roundy, George A.
Doyle, Wilmont R.	(M.D.)	Smith, Harry E.
Doyle, Palmer K.	Jacques, Philip O.	Smith, Robert
(died in service)	Lander, Allen	Stoddard, Stanley W.
Durgin, Leslie J.	Lander, William	Swasey, Guy H.
Farley, Ralph	Lander, Eugene P.	Taylor, William B.
Fogg, Norman L.	Laweryson, Melvin	Temple, Guy O.
Fogg, Ralph C.	*Laweryson, Oscar	Vincent, Beecher
*Killed in action		

## VETERANS WORLD WAR II

Adams, George	Atwood, Alva R.	Beane, Bernard A.
Adams, William C.	Atwood, Clifford R.	Beane, Eugene H.
Andrews, Evander W., Jr.	Avery, Charles	Beane, Roy C.
Andrews, Floriman W.	Baker, John D.	Beane, Terry F.
Andrews, Guy D.	Bailey, Ralph	Bell, Vinal
Andrews, Randall	Ball, Franklin P.	Berry, Gerald E.
Arno, Percie R.	*Batchelder, Louis H.	Bickford, Harold A.
	Barnaby, Craig N.	Bigelow, Albert B.



Bigelow, Arlen F.	Hale, E. Blaine	Rollins, Blin N.
Bigelow, James C.	Hall, Richard N.	Rollins, Charles D.
Bilodeau, Joseph A.	Hanlin, Gerald H.	Rollins, Errold K.
Boutelle, Warren T.	Hanlin, Kenneth R.	Rollins, Forest H.
Bray, Lafayette J.	Harrington, Ross O.	Rollins, Glen F.
Brewer, James A.	Hill, Earle W.	Rollins, Merrill L.
Brochu, Paul E.	Hill, Stanley B.	Rollins, Richard H.
Burns, Olin	Hilton, James B.	Roy, Oscar J.
Cahill, Lewis J.	Howarden, Edward E.	Sands, Stacey
Carl, Bernard C.	Huggins, Norman	Savage, Earl G.
Carter, Franklin O.	Hunnewell, Clyde S.	Sawyer, Donald D.
Cassidy, Hugh D.	Hunnewell, Frank D.	Shaw, Donald E.
Cates, Ernest L.	Hunnewell, Robert C.	Shaw, Kenneth E.
Cates, Urban L.	Johnston, Harrison	Shaw, Stephen D.
Cates, Wendell E.	Lamontagne, Peter J.	Shaw, William J.
Chasse, Laurence J.	Laweryson, Allen R.	Small, Wilfred J.
Chase, Gerald L.	Laweryson, Ivan L.	Smith, Aubrey E.
Chase, Mansfield C.	Laweryson, Merwin F.	Smith, Earl G. Jr.
Clark, Gerald A.	Laweryson, Milton M.	Smith, Jannette E.
Clark, James A.	Littlefield, Horace E., Jr.	Spalding, Richard H.
*Collins, Charles W.		Steeves, Merle V.
Collins, James F.	Longley, Frank C.	Steeves, Burton U.
Collins, Hazel P.	MacKean, Albert G.	Sterling, Edward A.
Cool, Richard C.	MacKean, Helen M.	Steward, Ercell H.
Craig, John S.	Martin, Eugene P.	Steward, Lowell C.
*Craig, William H.	Martin, Herbert W.	Steward, Robert E.
Curtis, Harold E.	Malloy, Lawrence J.	Steward, Wilton E.
Curtis, Philip H.	McAfee, Robert J.	Sullivan, George
Davis, Kenneth	McCollor, Merle E.	Tedford, Arthur
Davis, Lewis R.	McDonald, Erwin W.	Thiboutot, Alphonse
Doherty, Paul W.	McDonald, Leon E.	Thiboutot, Arthur
Dunton, Albert W.	McIntyre, Emery H.	Thompson, Rexford R.
Dunton, Stuart C.	McIntyre, Lenis E.	Tibbetts, Keith A.
Flanders, Harold F.	McQuilken, Norman E.	Trembley, Edgar J.
Fluett, Lewis W.	Melcher, Harry H.	Trembley, Rainy
Folsom, William C.	Messer, Basil F.	Toulouse, Armand G.
Forsythe, Gerald T.	Michaud, Herman	Towne, Maurice K.
Foster, Edward H.	Morine, Alvin M.	Tozier, Ralph M.
Foster, Edwin H.	Morine, Eldon S.	Viles, Alfred W.
*Foster, Emmanuel M.	Morine, Robert K.	Voisine, Patrick
Garland, Ray H.	Morris, Weldon P.	Voisine, Paul
Gauthier, Henry J.	Nadeau, Rosario	Walker, Errold C.
Gehrke, Laurence A.	Nickerson, Floyd A.	West, Donald W.
Gehrke, Robert L.	Orr, Harley E.	West, Wellman A.
Gervais, Camille T.	Padham, Reginald W.	Whitman, William L.
*Giberson, Gerald H.	Padham, Roger B.	Williams, Gertrude E.
Giberson, Omar H.	Payson, Herbert 3d	Williams, Guy F.
Giberson, G. Stanton	Perry, Leslie J.	Williams, Roger F.
Giguere, E. Maurice	Plourde, Lucien J.	Wing, Morris R.
Giguere, Wilfred A.	Pooler, Lawrence G., Jr.	Witham, Blin B.
Gilbert, Bruce H., Jr.		Witham, Dwight
Gilman, Clarence	Potter, Lewis W.	Worster, Frederick R.
Goff, Russell G.	Rice, William H.	Worthley, Irene M.
Goodrich, Arthur G.	Ricker, Erland E.	Wyman, Charles O.
Goodrich, Harry M.	Robinson, Blaine G.	Young, Annie L.
Gordon, Douglas H.	Robinson, Maynard O.	Young, Dorothy A.
Gordon, John H., Jr.	Roderick, Thomas L.	Young, Kenneth E.
Guay, Charles F.	Roderick, Wilfred T.	Young, Stephen A.
Guay, Francis W.	Rollins, Allen G.	Young, Virginia M.
Guay, Gerard B.	Rollins, Almon P.	

## KOREAN CONFLICT

Since there is no existing check list of Veterans of the Korean conflict, and because there is a technical limitation imposed on the time of service, the following is as nearly correct as possible:

Adams, Sherwood	Clark, Norris	Ingraham, James
Adams, Vinal	Dionne, Gerald	McLaughlin, Ralph
Andrews, William	Durgin, Jerry J.	*Michaud, Gilbert
Beane, Eldon	Hall, Ronald	Parent, Romeo
Beane, Kendall	Henderson, Eugene	Pratt, Mardell
Bridges, Lee	Huggins, Warren	Roberts, Richard
Cahill, James	Hunnewell, Stanton	White, James
Cassidy, Roland	Hutchins, Stephen	

\*Killed in action

— MRS. EDMUND C. MELCHER



BINGHAM BAND — 1962

First row, left to right: Jill Mihovan, Bernadette Hines, Gloria Jean Beane, Nancy Rollins, Pauline Rollins, Carolsue Beane, Albert Lagasse, Michael Curtis, Faylene Cates, Suzanne Sterling, Carol Beane, Caryl Forsythe, Tomalie Spalding, Joan MacIntosh.

Second row, left to right—Bruce Bushey, Charlotte Strout, Wilmont Robinson, Shawn Small, Jean Moore, Gene Kimball, Mrs. Knight, Linda Wallingford, Barbara Hill, Earlene Orcutt, Sally Duplessis, Clyde Beane, Donald Hansen.

Third row, left to right—Stephen Hinkley, Donald Beane, Essie Hunnewell, Dale Hunnewell, Michael McIntyre, John McCollor, Peter Fournier, David Baker, Merle Pierce, Gerald Giberson, James West, Larry Boyington, Larry Clark, David Hovey, Donald Moody.



# Cemeteries

AT THE TOP OF MAHONEY HILL is an old burying ground. At the Brown place are Henry A. McClintick, his wife and four sons. Behind these are buried George V. E. Perry and his sons, Chester T. and George D.; also Joseph Langley and his two babies, Atwood and Timmy. All these died within seven months in 1861.

## JOHNSON AND SPOFFORD CEMETERY

At the Cony Grant farm is the Johnson and Spofford cemetery where Eli R. Spofford and his wife, Nancy, are buried. Darenus Johnson and his wife, Esther H., also their son, Darenus, who was a soldier. There are also the graves of Osgood C. Jones and his wife, Esther A. Johnson, Osgood being a Civil War veteran. Amherst Spofford and his wife, Rachel D., are also among the marked graves here.

## FRENCH CEMETERY

At the Charlie French place there are a few graves of an early family. Only a few unreadable stones mark the place.

## GEORGE CORSON CEMETERY

On a knoll at the George Corson place are three graves of George W. Noyes, his wife, Caroline E., and their daughter, Caroline.

## FALL BROOK CEMETERY

At the Fall Brook Cemetery are Isaac Corson, who was a soldier, and John Maquine, a Civil War veteran, his wife and two daughters. Levi York and his wife, Lucinda, as well as a James York, Josiah Spofford and a baby of his. John Clark, a Civil War veteran, and Rev. Charles Clark were brothers. Rev. Mr. Clark's wife and two young children, as well as an older son, Nath'l L., are buried together.

## GILMAN CORNER CEMETERY

At Gilman Corner Cemetery are John Tuscan and his wife, Nancy. John signed the petition for the first town meeting in 1812.

Mehitable, wife of Moses French, and probably her family buried beside her, with field stone markers.

Otis Strickland and his wife, Lucinda, are at one side in the woods.



Amherst Spofford, a veteran of the Civil War, and his wife, Sarah G. There is also a George Spofford who died in 1943.

David Gilman, his wife, Fanny, their two sons, David and Charles, Flora and Lorean, wives of Charles, and two children are buried together.

Hannah Hilton, who died February 14, 1870 at the age of ninety-eight, is buried beside Fanny, wife of David Gilman.

Eliphalet Cooley, who has a G.A.R. marker, is buried beside his wife, Esther, and their sons, Forrest and Charles.



Graves of William Fletcher, first settler, and his wife, Sarah.  
Revolutionary War Soldier.

#### RUSSELL CORNER CEMETERY

Near Russell Corner there is a cemetery where Ben Cooley and his wife, Lydia, are buried; some Valentines, also some unmarked graves and field stones.

Across Johnson Stream from the Ed McClintick place, now in the woods, there are some slate stones with unreadable scratching on them, probably of an early family.

There are three buried at the upper end of Arlie McClintick's

intervale close to Fall Brook, two women by the name of Young, also the famous Major E. Moore marked with an improperly set stone. His grave is twenty rods due west from the stone which reads: MAJOR JOSEPH E. MOORE, MASS. MILITARY 1776.

#### NAME UNKNOWN

On the so-called Piper place which was cleared by Amherst Spoford is his grave. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. For years the grave was enclosed by cedar rails which have deteriorated and no one knows the exact spot.

#### LEADBETTER

At the Leon Atwood place is the grave of Calvin Pierce who died in 1815. He signed the Bingham petition for incorporation in 1811, and was captain of the local Militia during the War of 1812. He has numerous descendants in the area today. His son, Joshua B., who was a lieutenant of the Militia, and his wife, Hannah, and their daughter, Clarisa C., are buried together.

Elizabeth Churchill, wife of Joseph, is also here. They were in town in 1790 or before.

#### THE VILLAGE CEMETERY

Tradition says there were graves covered with granite slabs there when the first settlers arrived. These are in the center of what is now the oldest part of the cemetery. There are four, and they are believed to be Indian graves.

Captain Joshua Goodrich gave the first land for this cemetery from his farm along the bank of the river. There is no record, but the old slate stones that mark the graves of the settlers are on this land.

Among these are Mr. Ephraim Heald who died in 1803, Lucy Parlin, 1804, and William Fletcher, 1806, the first settler in Norridge-wock and Bingham. Other early stones are those of Polly Knight, wife of Solomon, 1811, and in 1812, two Amos Fletchers.

In 1815, Joshua Goodrich IVth, a boy of thirteen, was killed in his grandfather's mill and buried in the cemetery in September. The grandfather, Captain Joshua Goodrich, died that same year in December. His wife, Elizabeth, was buried beside him in 1840.

Pickard Goodrich, another grandson of Joshua, who had come into possession of that part of the farm, gave a deed to "The First Burying Ground Society" for twenty-five dollars in 1847. The deed reads as follows:



“A certain piece or parcel of land in said Bingham for a Burying Ground, being a piece out of the northwest corner of the ‘Old Capt. Goodrich Farm’ so-called, lying between the County Road and the Kennebec River, and including that part of said farm which is now enclosed by a fence for a Burying Ground, containing one hundred square rods more or less.” December 2d, 1847.

According to the town records of 1923, an article was voted to raise by loan twelve hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) to buy of A. C. Dinsmore the land which includes the first three drives near the Guy Williams’ home.

A cemetery committee was appointed consisting of Mr. S. J. Whitney, Mr. A. C. Dinsmore, and Mrs. Lephe Preble, who acted as secretary and treasurer of the group. When the money raised had been repaid, the group disbanded. There was no cemetery association at this time, nor indeed, any available lots.

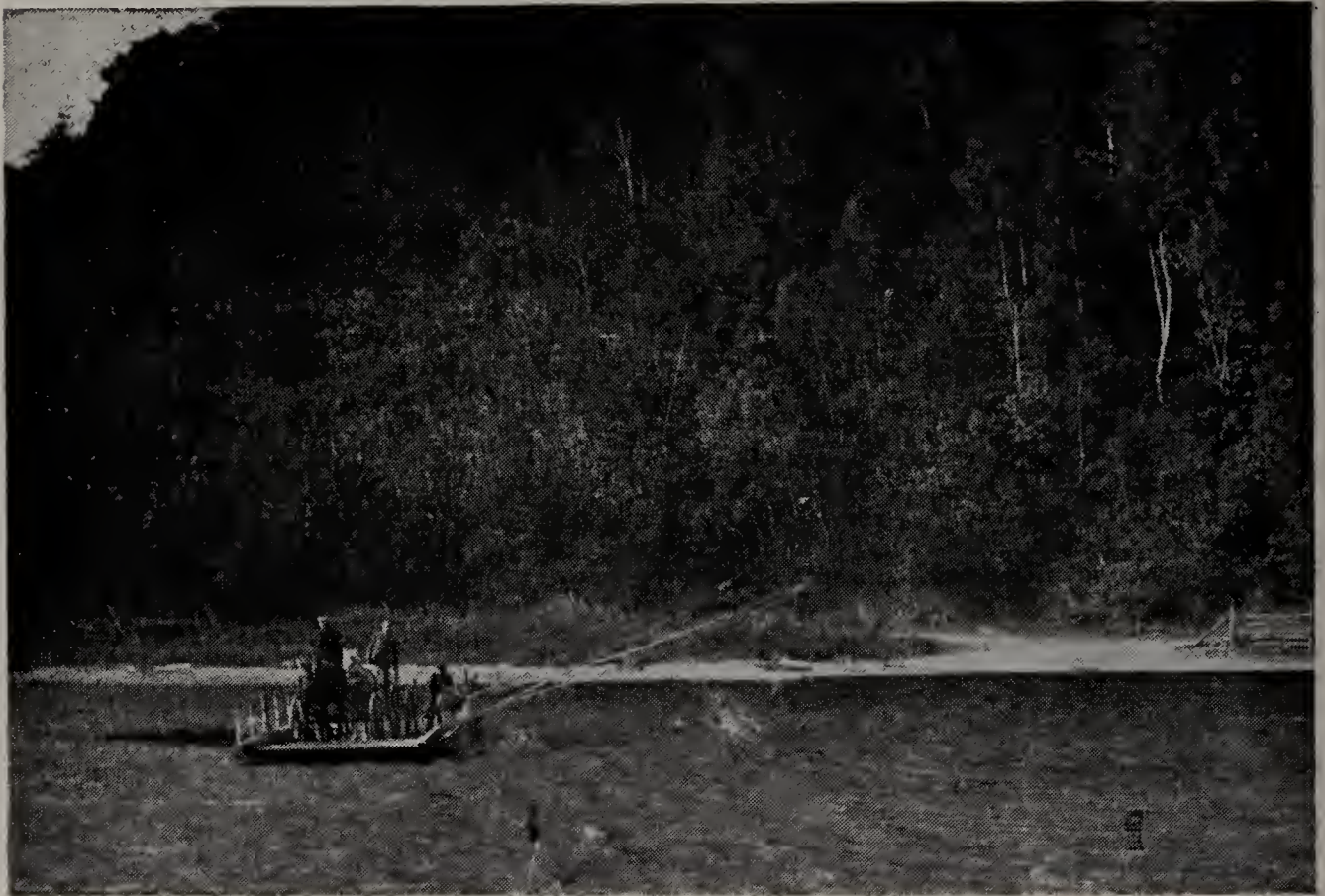
Buried in the plots of this old cemetery are eighty-two soldiers who served in all wars, some in the Revolution, veterans of 1812, and of the Civil War, both World Wars, and of the Korean Conflict.



# Transportation

THE KENNEBEC RIVER, THE WATERWAY, was transportation for the people of the early days. Indians paddled canoes from Quebec down to the Atlantic for fishing, and back to Canada for hunting and trapping, making camp at many sites along the valley.

Benedict Arnold's Army of 1,100 men, on the Quebec Expedition, came up the Kennebec River in bateaux, passed the place where Bingham now stands, to camp some ten miles above.



The Ferry taken from the Bingham side of the Kennebec River. Old Bluff in the background.

The farmers of the Upper Kennebec Valley used the Indian Trail, the Horseback Path, to haul by hand-sled their butter and eggs for sale in Quebec City. This trail became a dirt road, traveled by horses and ox team, and brought French Canadians in their two-wheeled carts to work in haying and harvest seasons, and in turn, Canadian woodsmen to work in lumber camps and on the spring drive.

Progress brought the stagecoaches. The stagecoach of the early days was a heavy wagon which would seat twelve people. It was drawn by four horses except in mud time when six were used.

The stagecoach came from Skowhegan to Bingham where another took over which went to The Forks. Then another drove to Moose

River and another to the Canadian border. Later, the so-called Upriver Stage came from Caratunk and returned.

The passing of the stagecoach was an event to watch for, and its arrival was a real occasion, for it brought news of the outside world. The late Arthur Dinsmore often recalled how, as a boy of 15, at the close of the Civil War, he saw and heard the Skowhegan stage come into town, driven by William Blagdon, who had the horses at a gallop, and was shouting, "the War is done!"

Charles Colby drove the stage between Skowhegan and Bingham for twelve years.

Another veteran stage driver was Will Whorff who retired after fifty years. At the age of nineteen, he started driving stage between Bingham and The Forks, a distance of twenty-three miles. Then, fifteen years later, his drive was from Caratunk to Bingham and return. This was fifteen miles of hazardous road with dugways along the river bank, and in many places the road was too narrow for two teams to pass. Now it is the surfaced International Highway, but many an adventurous tale has come from those days when liquor and furs were smuggled over the boundary, and officers followed their men on the escapades.

The Bingham-Concord Ferry was originated about 1820 by a person known as Bige Goodrich who lived under Old Bluff. The house where he lived later was the home of the Garland family, and is now the "Red House" of Mr. and Mrs. Robie Howes.

The road at that time went up over Bluff where the Central Maine Power Company line now runs.

The Ferry was boat-style with "driving bats" for foot passengers, and a small scow for ox teams. The Ferry was poled and a scull-oar was used in deep water. The second owner, Bige's son, Marshall Goodrich, improved the original with a slung two-inch rope.

Marshall Goodrich was followed by owners: Joel Colby, Isaac Curtis, and William Clark. Then ownership went back to Isaac Curtis for thirty years. Curtis installed a steel wire cable six hundred feet long at a cost of \$200, and had a better ferryboat.

William Carl followed as owner for six years, and its last owner was Elbie Curtis.

The Bingham-Concord bridge was constructed in 1905.

In April, 1868, the Town of Bingham voted to take stock in the Somerset Railroad, but it was twenty-two years before the first train came into Bingham.

Willis B. Goodrich, Town Clerk for many years, wrote in his personal records:

"Bingham, Maine, June 11, 1890. The Somerset Railroad is al-



most here. A large crew of men are laying the track across David Whipple's field in plain sight of the village. We heard the whistle and the car bell last evening."

"June 12, 1890, Four O'clock P. M. The last spike was driven in the railroad, and the track laying was completed to near the main road on land owned by John Owens. A large crowd went down to see the sight, the band played, the church bell was rung, and the cannon was fired while men cheered."

"June 29, 1890. The first freight was taken out over the road, ten cars of last blocks. They were loaded this P.M. and the engine came up at nine o'clock and took them out. The road is now graveled to John Harrimans."

"July 14, 1890. The first passenger train left Bingham at 6:45 A.M., twenty-one passengers on board, myself among the rest, and arrived at 7:00 P.M., eight passengers on board, a big crowd turning out to see it arrive."

Ed. Locke was the engineer; Walter Garland, the fireman; Dexter Foster, the conductor; and Ed. Magoon, the brakeman.

Business boomed. Bingham was the terminal until 1904 when rails were laid for the Kineo branch. Rails were laid to Deadwater December 2, 1904, and to "Joe Hole," December 27, 1905. The first train went into Kineo, December 3, 1906.

Bingham built a road to the railroad at Bingham Heights. At least six passenger trains came into town daily. Pullman cars, with the red-capped porters, were to be seen in the summer, and heavy freights, log trains, and work trains plied in and out.

The Maine Central Railroad took over in 1911, but forty-two years brought new means of transportation and the Maine Central Railroad put on buses to carry the mail.

In 1932 passenger train service was discontinued from Waterville to Bingham.

Joe Cote was the conductor and Tim Coyne, the engineer on the last run. In 1933, the last passenger train ran into Kineo Station with Al Emerv, conductor, and Coyne, engineer. The last freight ran into Kineo, July 28, 1933, with Charles Dulec, conductor, and Charles Richardson, engineer.

Present-day freight service is two or three times a week. Automobile service has taken over transportation.

Two incidents of interest of the many in the history of the railroad in Bingham are recalled:

In June, 1944, a train with over two hundred German prisoners of war and nearly as many United States Army men arrived in town



just before dawn where a fleet of trucks carried the outfit to the prison camp at Hobbs Town on Spencer Lake.

The second is a tribute to a Bingham native, Walter I. Hughes, now a dairy farmer in Concord, who, when a boy of fifteen, averted what could have been a serious wreck.

Walter lived at the home of Frank Curtis on a farm on Route 201. One morning about noon, a call for help came over the Farmer's Telephone. A mix-up had been made in train orders and a north-bound freight out of Solon, and a south-bound freight out of Bingham were on the tracks, and, according to time, should be near the Curtis farm. Long-legged Walter made a streak for the distant track, and reached there just as the north-bound train came around a curve. He jumped between the rails and waved his red bandanna. The south-bound train came into sight. He stood there frantically waving the bandanna. The engineers caught the signal, applied their brakes, and the trains came to a stop only a few feet apart.

— EVA D. BACHELDER



BINGHAM-CONCORD BRIDGE — Built in 1905.

# Stores Through 150 Years

THE FIRST STORES, like so many other "firsts" in the early days, were in the homes. Items not produced on the farms or made in the homes had to be brought over roads that were still only trails through the forest from the towns down the Kennebec, either by ox cart, or in some cases, up the river itself by boat or canoe. Ephraim Heald who had the first frame house in town was also an early trader and kept store in his house. Levi Fletcher who lived in the central part of the village also sold from his home. This building was later dismantled and the frame used to build two houses now located on Baker Street.

No date is available for the building of the first store, but as nearly as can be found, it was about 1825. Levi Fletcher built the store now owned by Clayton Andrews, and used as a grain and building supply store. Mr. Fletcher sold staple goods—groceries, building materials, dry goods, and, as was the custom at that time, both New England and West Indian Rum. Money was in short supply, and the early merchants used the exchange and barter system. In an old account book we find that Nathan Moore made snowshoes to exchange for "Saleratus, Molasses and Tobacco." In another account, S. Parlin exchanged "Tow Cloth" for credit. In the early part of the 1850's this store was passed on to Mr. Fletcher's son-in-law, Simeon Goodrich, who continued to sell the same items, and used the same methods. Much later it was passed in turn to W. B. Goodrich, a nephew, who still owned and managed it in 1912. The present owner, Clayton Andrews, is a descendant of the firm who long owned and operated a grist- and sawmill located on Austin Stream.

Another general store, that of William Rowell, was in operation at about the same period and carried the same line of merchandise. This is the store that was located on the present site of the E. W. Moore & Son drugstore. He was succeeded by Joel Colby around 1854. Mr. Colby married the niece of William Rowell, and bought the Rowell home next door to the store.

A map of Somerset County published in 1860 shows the following stores: John Givens, Carpenter and Joiner (site of White Cash Market); Abner Dinsmore, Shoemaker (just above the Federal Trust Company); S. Putnam, Millinery and Maker of Robes (site of Esso Station); Jesse Smith, and Jesse Smith, Jr., each had Blacksmith Shops on the upper section of town. Others listed are H. S. Abbey, Carpenter and Builder, located near the north end of Main Street, on



the east side; and P. & S. Goodrich having a "Flour Grist Mill & Sawed Lumber," this being the W. E. & E. E. Andrews mill of the present time.

With the advent of the railroad in July 1890, several new stores were built. Colby & Preble, owned by Warren Colby and Fred Preble, was located at the store now the White Cash Market, but afterwards built across the street. It later became Preble & Robinson. Allan Robinson is the son of Mr. Robinson and grandson of Mr. Preble of the original firm. This firm sold both wholesale and retail groceries and, in the time of winter-logging, operated for lumber and



A COUNTRY STORE ABOUT 1903-1905  
(Interior of W. B. Goodrich's Store)

sold to others engaged in lumbering. The south side of the store was the location of Mark Savage & Company, dealers in dry goods for many years. In 1912 this firm was owned by Roy Savage and John Owens who still operated it for quite a long time. Kennebec Hall was on the second floor and was used for movies and dances, and town meetings.

Mr. Ervin W. Moore had a shop where he sold and repaired jewelry, watches and clocks. It was located across the street from the building now owned by his son and was a little farther up the

street. He later bought the brick building then owned by his father-in-law, Joel Colby. For a time he and John J. Lander were in business together. In 1911, when the old hotel burned, this building was burned too. Mr. Moore rebuilt the building that is now on the site and sold drugs and jewelry. For a time Mr. Lander had a hardware store in the north side, and this was later run by Earl Folsom. The entire building is now used by the Moore firm and is owned by Robert Moore. The New England Telephone & Telegraph Company have occupied the rooms on the second floor for the past fifty years.

Mr. Frank Hunnewell had a market and later a restaurant. Both of these were on Murray Street, and later he had one on Main Street where the A & P store is. Another building prominent in the nineties and until 1940 was that of A. S. Burke. After Mr. Burke's death his widow carried on the store successfully until she was an old lady. They sold millinery, dress goods, dishes, and had a special line of gifts at Christmas time.

The Little Shop has had a long and interesting history. At one time it housed the post office. Two physicians used it as an office, although a long time intervened between them. The first was Dr. Albert A. Piper, and the second, Dr. George Sullivan. For a time Sarah Goodrich, who represented the *Bingham Herald*, used the building as home-office. Before the present owner, Florence Murray, opened her shop, it was the barber shop, and later there was added a beauty shop owned by Ben Adams.

The White Cash Market, now owned by Mr. Marois, has served for a restaurant under Mrs. I. Moore; a Farmers' Union; Temple & Pray's Market; Hunnewell Bros. Market, and in 1893-1912 it was the post office. At the time it was owned by the Hunnewell Brothers there was a fire that gutted the building.

The Donigan Block, long owned by A. F. Donigan, was a furniture and a men's clothing store beginning in the early nineties. Later the post office was in the section used as Frances' Beauty Parlor, and Hill's Variety Store. The central part was S. J. Whitney's Hardware—later Sterling & Woodard Hardware, and now Kennebec Valley Hardware owned by Harold Smith. The store was taken over after the death of Mr. Donigan by Taylor Bros. & Hill, and still later, C. E. Keene was a member of the firm. Bushey & Sterling now own and operate the original store and sell clothing, furniture and appliances.

The barber shop owned by Philip Chasse was owned by several barbers previously. Among them were Charles Millett, Urban Beane, and Philip Jacques. At one time Chester Hammond had a print shop in this building and in the late 1930's this combined with a newspaper—*The Somerset County Leader*—edited and owned by "Ike" Kihlmire.



A well-remembered store is that of "Uncle Ben" Smith. He had a store in the house now owned by Mrs. Thompson and across the street from the restaurant. He sold general items, which included drugs and candy. He later was in the block known as the Holt Block. This was just north of the Dutton Hotel which was where the Federal Trust Company is now. It burned in the fire of 1952.

About 1876, Abner Dinsmore and Mr. Abbey built the place now used for an antique shop, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Alkins. Mr. Abner Dinsmore used it for a shoe shop, his son Arthur later came into the business, and in turn Arlie Dinsmore joined his father. Mr. Arthur Dinsmore and his son were the local undertakers, but continued to make shoes too. The north part of the store was at one time a fish market and later a meat market, and had several proprietors. John Bergonzi established a business here selling fruit, confectionery and had an ice cream parlor. Fred Preble was a later owner. He added a line of groceries. Several others ran it for shorter periods. The second floor was the old Union Hall.

Progress has taken another turn, and for the most part trucks bring goods from the wholesaler to the door of the retailers. Now only the antique shop would carry merchandise familiar to the men and women who traded at the various stores a century and more ago.

Three of the present-day merchants are of the families of the original founders more than a half century ago. Preble & Robinson, groceries and general merchandise; W. E. & E. E. Andrews, hardware and grain; and E. W. Moore & Son, druggists.

The present-day merchants are as follows, beginning at the northwest side of Main Street:

TOZIER'S GULF SERVICE STATION — Ralph Tozier, proprietor.

THOMPSON'S RESTAURANT — Harold and Bertha Gillispie, proprietors; formerly Thompson & Gillispie, O. G. Thompson, E. H. Caswell store.

LIDSTONE NATION-WIDE MARKET — Everett Lidstone, owner; formerly Whitman's Market, Donald Whitman, owner; Wentworth's Market; Green Grocery Company; A. F. Donigan's (millinery and 5c and 10c store).

STATE OF MAINE LIQUOR STORE — Pierce Block; formerly Stanley B. Hill; Vernard I. Pierce; George Demko; O'Brien Brothers.

DAVIS & MILLER — Pierce Block; formerly Earl W. Hill; Vernard I. Pierce.

KENNEBEC HARDWARE — Harold Smith, owner; formerly Sterling & Woodard Hardware; S. J. Whitney Hardware.

HILL'S VARIETY STORE — Stanley B. Hill, owner.

FRANCES' BEAUTY PARLOR — Frances Tozier, owner; formerly U. S. Post Office.

BUSHEY & STERLING — Lawrence Bushey and Edward Sterling, owners (clothing and furniture); formerly Taylor, Hill & Keene; Taylor Bros. & Hill; Albert F. Donigan.

WHITE CASH MARKET — Joseph Marois, owner; formerly Ernest W. Pooler; Rudolph Guay; Hunnewell Bros. (John and Scott); Alton B. Carl; Campbell's Market; Farmer's Union (Chester Cool, manager); U. S. Post Office; Izana Moore Restaurant; Colby & Preble; Sarah Preble. Downstairs: Temple & Pray; George Miller.

W. E. & E. E. ANDREWS — Clayton Andrews, owner.

J. LAFOREST ANDREWS—Jeweler; formerly Harry Knowles Electric Shop; Eva D. Bachelder store; Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company; W. B. Goodrich & Son. Upper floor: Raymond L. Whitney; Harold I. Goss, lawyer; W. R. Jordon, lawyer.

THE LITTLE SHOP — Florence Murray, owner; formerly Dr. George E. Sullivan's office; Benjamin F. Adams barber shop; Sarah Goodrich; Bingham *Herald*; Dr. Albert A. Piper's office; U. S. Post Office.

PHILLIP CHASSE — Barber shop; formerly Chester Hammond, printer-newspaper *Somerset Leader*; Philip Jacques, barber; Urban Beane, barber; Charles Millett, barber.

FEDERAL TRUST COMPANY — Bank.

R. B. HOWES SOCONY STATION — Robie B. Howes, owner; formerly Dr. Nevers' office; Dr. Moore's office; Dr. R. C. Brown's office; Dr. Z. Spaulding.

ROLLINS DISTRIBUTORS — Wilder and Annie Rollins.

YELLOW BOWL INN — Annie Rollins, proprietor; formerly Errold and Harriet Hilton Tea Room; homes.

REDMOND'S SUPERETTE MARKET — Ronald Redmond, owner.

BINGHAM AUTO PARTS-SAVAGE'S TEXACO SERVICE STATION — Earl Savage, owner.

DR. ROBERT GOLDEN.

Stores on the east side of Main Street, beginning at the north:

KELSEY SHEAFF STORE — Kelsey Sheaff, owner; formerly Al



Bouvier; Edward Sterling; Beecher Vincent; T. H. Reynolds, blacksmith.

U. S. POST OFFICE — Formerly Anna S. Howes; Dr. R. C. Brown's office; Augusta Trust Co.; Depositors Trust Co.

SPORTSMAN'S RESTAURANT — Walter Buecht, proprietor.

ATLANTIC & PACIFIC TEA COMPANY — Formerly Wilfred Small; Frank Hunnewell Grocery; Jennie Hunnewell Restaurant.

E. W. MOORE & SON — Robert C. Moore, owner, druggist; formerly Earl Folsom Hardware; Lander & Folsom. Upper floor: N. E. Tel. & Tel. office; Dr. Murray, dentist; Dr. R. Poulin, dentist; Dr. Jeness, dentist; Dr. Murray, dentist; Clarence Dunton, insurance; Walter Harwood, lawyer.

WALTER R. HARWOOD, LAWYER - IRENE HARWOOD, REAL ESTATE —Formerly Dr. George E. Sullivan's office; Forest H. Colby, lumbering.

PREBLE & ROBINSON GROCERIES — General store; formerly south half of building; Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.; Elizabeth Mulhall; Mark Savage & Company.

BEMIS RESTAURANT — Charles Bemis, proprietor; formerly Alfred and Kate Burke, dry goods and millinery.

ALKINS' ANTIQUES — Maurice and Barbara Alkins; formerly Leslie Durgin; Herbert Taylor; Fred W. Preble; John Begonzi; Atkinson's Bakery. South half of building: Dr. Deveaux' office; A. C. Dinsmore & Son; Abner Dinsmore & Son; Charles Millett, barber; E. W. Moore; Telegraph Office. Upper story: Union Hall.

BARNABY'S ESSO STATION.

MICHAUD GARAGE — Formerly Savage Garage, Carroll Savage, proprietor.

COOLEY'S FILLING STATION — Clifford Cooley, proprietor.

MAPLEWOOD MOTEL — Stanton Beane, owner; States.

# Industries

UNTIL 1812, THE YEAR the town was incorporated, it is safe to say that the clearing of fields for farms and building homes, cultivating the new land and reaping the harvests, hunting and fishing to augment the food supply were the full-time occupations of the settlers. Once these things were established, the people began to look into means of making their way of life less arduous.

The location of the town with its surrounding forests beside the Kennebec River, made it a natural center for lumbering and related wood products. Lumbering was seasonal work and farmers became lumberjacks between seasons. Soon it became the chief industry, and through the years many firms and individuals have been thus engaged.

These first industries were the result of basic needs of the new settlement, a gristmill and a sawmill. The first gristmill was built soon after the settlement was made by William Fletcher. This was located on the Austin near the end of Preble Street. The restless waters of the stream later made the gravelly bank unsuitable. Before 1800, Joshua Goodrich had built a sawmill, a gristmill and two dams on the stream that ran by the east end of his farm called Mill Brook. Mr. Goodrich seems to have been a millwright by trade.

In 1820 a mill was built on the site of the mill now owned by Clayton Andrews. There Mr. Ephraim Heald ran and up-and-down saw, a shingle machine, clapboard machine and a lath machine, and ground all kinds of grain. It came down through the hands of Allen Heald, and Ed Gray to Pickard and Seth Goodrich, Seth Goodrich and John Baker, John Baker and George Miller, Brackett and Andrews, and finally to W. E. & E. E. Andrews. (Notes made by Sidney T. Goodrich furnish this material).

Filling the needs of the growing town was a tannery located on the flat between the two hills on the upper section of what is now Murray Street.

A plant for leaching ashes was located on or near the site of the home now owned by Wilfred Small on Main Street. Farmers hauled in their ashes in the spring, selling them as a product. These were leached in containers the size of hogsheads, and lye was boiled in great iron kettles to produce potash.

The potash business was owned by L. G. Fletcher, William Rowell and Joel Colby. The exact date cannot be ascertained. Daniel Robinson, who had come to this country from Scotland, was hired to do



the leaching. He lived in Concord. He has many descendants now living in this neighborhood.

Many years later, another plant using the same methods operated in a building near the old Bingham railroad terminal. It was operated



The Old Sawmill

by Clyde and Bernard Whitney to overcome a great shortage in potash that existed during World War I, and is listed in the *Register* of 1919.

Although there may have been several brickyards in the vicinity; there are not many records. Probably if clay was not to be found near a property the bricks were brought in from towns below. However, we do have a map of the town in 1883 that shows a brickyard on what is now Whitney Street, marked as the property of Mark Savage. Another was at the rear of the home now owned by Carl Cates at the foot of Nichols Hill. This one was owned and operated by Charles Givens in the nineties.

Many of the houses of that period have underpinning of brick, and in a few cases these bricks were extended from the basement walls upward between the outside and inner walls of the house, probably as a form of insulation.

Few dates are available on early shops. One of the early blacksmiths was Cyrus Hunter whose shop was across the road from the



Library, which he built and owned for his home. A few pieces of his work are still owned in town. Eber Baker had a shop in the upper part of the town. Others were Jesse Smith, Jesse Smith, Jr., Winfield Stewart and, later, Thomas Reynolds had shops in the northern section of town. Orville Forsythe had a shop in the southern part of town which he closed in 1943. He uses the building now for special work for the two veneer mills.

There were two well-known harness makers: first, Arthur Burke and later, George Baker. His shop was located near the site of the Davis & Miller store on Main Street. For many years a life-size grey horse, resplendent in glittering harness, advertised his ware in the shop window. He retired from this work to become Postmaster in 1916.

Mechanization in the woods and on farms and the tremendous increase in automobiles made these industries obsolete.

### STARCH FACTORY

In 1875 much interest was aroused by the start of a factory to produce starch. A Mr. Stephen Richardson, who came from New Hampshire where he had had a starch plant, interested local farmers in raising potatoes for this purpose. A factory was located on the Mayfield road just above where it now intersects the main highway. It was so erected that wagons loaded with potatoes could drive into the second story from the road to unload. A small pond adjacent to this property was the supply for water to be used in the boiler and starch machines. Mr. Richardson lived in the home across Austin Stream now owned by the heirs of William Robinson. Unfortunately, this business did not prosper and after a year was changed to a sawmill and the starch machines were sold. The sawmill was a success and was using local lumber and employing several local people, when it caught fire late in the fall of 1879 and burned. (This information came from notes of the late E. W. Moore).

Another small business of those times was carriage-making. One owned by John Givens occupied a building on the west side of Main Street near the site of the White Cash Market. He had a shop in the south end of the building there and lived in the north end. He made and repaired wagons, carriages and sleighs, and painted them. He had been a ship's carpenter. Another carriage shop was near the corner of Dinsmore Street, and the shop behind Rollins' Filling Station and used by them now, was for years the carriage shop of William Preble and later a son, Frank Preble. Carriages, sleighs and wagons were built and repaired there until after 1900.

Abner Dinsmore, a shoemaker, had a small shop in his home on the corner of Main and what is now Goodrich Streets. Later he



had a larger shop on the lot near where the local bank now stands. His son and grandson also made shoes, particularly shoes used in river-driving. These, of course, were all handmade.

The first garage in town was built where the S. D. Warren Company has its shop in the rear of its office. It was owned by Dr. R. C. Brown and John Briggs about 1914.

The *Solon-Bingham Register* for 1903 states, "In 1872 the firm of C. M. and A. Baker formed a company to produce calks. This product is too well-known to need any explanation." In 1962 it may be well to explain that this product was a sort of nail imbedded in the soles and heels of shoes used by lumberjacks and river drivers to prevent slipping from logs. Mr. Amon Baker invented and improved on existing machinery for this mill. His invention of a trip hammer to speed up this work increased the output from 7,000 to 7,000,000 between the year 1872 and 1892. The first mill was on the Austin about a half mile above the village. The increased business necessitated a new plant and one was built farther up the Austin Stream with a mill, boarding house, stables and other buildings at an expense of \$15,000. At this time, Mr. Baker took S. A. Dinsmore and Calvin Colby into the business as partners, selling them an interest. Mr. Baker later withdrew from the firm. Infringements on the patents and lessening demand brought the end of the business in 1902. However, at that time Mr. Baker was working on an invention which he expected to use later.

### THE LAST BLOCK MILLS

The next local business of importance was organized in 1889. The new firm was known as The Bingham Last Block Factory and was originally owned by J. J. Lander and S. A. Dinsmore, and also comprised of the Fitz Brothers Company of Durham, Maine. Later Dinsmore and Lander sold out to Fitz Brothers Company, but Mark Savage and J. J. Lander carried on the business for several years. The location was on the river about where the present Kennebec Log Driving Company have their building.

Later, a plant built by the Tucker-Lovell Company, was located at the west end of Lander Street. It was the largest plant making last blocks in Maine. Much of their production was exported to England. After many years of operation this mill was closed, and burned in the early twenties.

A peg mill manufacturing shoe pegs was built in 1898 by the McKay Shoe Company of Boston, Massachusetts. At the time it was built the outlook seemed good, but it was in operation for only about one year.

## THE SHANK MILL

In 1906 the American Shoe Finding Company moved into the peg mill owned by the McKay Company. This firm had previously operated in North Anson. Mr. Wallace Stoddard came here from North Anson as did several other long-time employees. This enterprise prospered from the beginning. It manufactured a large number of sizes of shanks which went to various markets, but chiefly to England and to Brockton, Massachusetts. In 1913 the mill was destroyed by a spectacular fire. It was rebuilt as soon as possible, and while the building was in the process the mill occupied the old Tucker-Lovell building. In 1929 the Wyman Dam was built for a power plant, and since the shank factory had depended on birch that had been rafted down the river, a problem of wood supply faced the owners. It was deemed less expensive to move the plant to the South, and that was done. All machinery, the manager and some of the men and women and families moved to the new site in Savannah, Georgia.

In 1916, late in the season, the New England Lumber Company, whose home office was in Boston, Massachusetts, built a small mill in Concord, Maine, having previously acquired 5,000 acres of timberland in Concord and Lexington (Maine). Mr. Maurice Alkins came here with the plant and stayed on to make the town his home after the mill closed in 1921. At the Concord mill they sawed out lumber to build a mill in Bingham in 1917. This was located on the site later and still occupied by the Allen Quimby Veneer Company. This sawmill sawed both hard and softwood with a capacity of nine million feet a year. In addition to long logs, they sawed spool bars, chair-stock and cedar canoe ribs. In winter the logs came down the river over an iced road, but in the spring and summer logs were rafted down the river to the mill, taken from the water with a steam hoisting engine and pulled into the mill yard. A hot pond was used to clean off the logs. The sawmill carriage was shotgun feed with two doggers and one setter strapped to the carriage. When they closed down in 1921, considerable lumber had been cut and shipped out.

In 1923 Maurice Alkins purchased all hardwood lumber left on stick, the mill and machinery. He sold the machinery to other mills, land and buildings to the United Shank & Findings Company, the plant known as the Shank Factory and later used as a boat shop by the Allen Quimby Veneer Company.

Mr. Alkins took the hardwood to what is now Kennebec Inc., and, together with the late Mr. Frank Smith, built a kiln dryer there and manufactured hardwood flooring for two years. They also had a portable sawmill to saw softwood lumber in the yard. This firm was Alkins & Smith.



In 1934 the General Manufacturing plant, at that time the only mill in the state manufacturing wooden shanks, came to move into the former shank factory and continued to manufacture shanks until 1957 when it was moved to Phillips, Maine. Mr. Lee Potter came here with this mill as its manager.

## SAWMILLS

The business of sawing lumber continued through the years. As has already been noted, the mill now owned by Clayton Andrews, began operations in 1820 and was in operation under different owners until the present one. It ceased sawing in 1954.

Other sawmills operated for various lengths of time throughout the years. According to the *Bingham-Solon Register* of 1903, a mill located below town on the Somerset Railroad and owned by E. J. Russell, was then sawing long and short lumber as well as making shingles. In 1905 the firm of Saunders Brothers from Bridgton came here and operated for several years near the railroad terminal. This mill used a dynamo and there are indications that this was bought from the Saunders Brothers when they left and that it furnished electric power for the residents of the town and for street lights. This company was called The Bingham Electric Company and later was sold to Central Maine Power Company. Roland Baker worked for both companies. A sawmill owned by a man named Packard operated for a period overlapping Saunders Brothers sawing spool bars at about the place that Mr. Oscar Miller now has his garage on Whitney Street. Glen Footman had a mill on the end of the flat on Murray Street for several years.

In the year of the Centennial, Skinner and French erected a sawmill where Kennebec Inc. now is situated. Until 1923 this mill was managed and owned in part by Mr. Maynard Skinner, and the mill later was sold to Bingham Lumber Company, which continued under Mr. Skinner. This mill produced an average of four million feet a year. After the plant closed it was unoccupied for some time. Then the Stowell-McGregor Company used the mill to saw spool bars through several winters and the mill was also used by Mr. Benjamin Lander to make candy sticks and other small wooden articles.

In 1935 Harold Baldwin built a mill on the site now occupied by Glen Wing's mill. Here maple was sawed for the purpose of making wooden heels. He sold a by-product, sawdust, to be used in a west coast-type sawdust burner which he sold and installed, and for several years some local homes were heated in this way. Lack of priorities made it necessary to move this business in 1942. Mr. Baldwin operated much of his own logs.

The Allen Quimby Veneer Company started building a plywood mill in 1936. That year, Allen Quimby, Sr., died and his sons, Allen, Jr. and Langdon, took over the construction and installation of machinery and then the business of operating. The first veneer was cut in May 1937. The plant employed both men and women and the demand for the product was increased with the outbreak of World War II. England bought aircraft birch for use for propellers, Mosquito bombers and landing craft. Some of it was made into gliders. One special item was purchased by the American Seating Company to be moulded to make back-fitting packs for special purposes. At the



The Allen Quimby Veneer Company — 1936-1962

close of the War this company experimented in mahogany, obeechee, and other South African woods. Since these were discharged at various ports rather than the port closest to Maine, the freight costs made this end product too expensive.

Using some of the company's plywood, the building of Bristol Boats became a branch of the business in 1950. Boats from sixteen to sixty feet were produced and sold all over the country. The sixty-footers are fast and seaworthy, ideal for deep-sea fishing or cruising.

At this time this firm is implementing plans to further utilize their product. They will make kitchen cabinet assemblies which will be shipped to assembly centers established in various cities. At present three hundred and fifty people are employed.

In 1942. through the War Production Board, a second plywood



mill was established to help produce the quantities of plywood in demand. They made no veneer and used that being produced by the Allen Quimby Veneer Company to produce material used in aircraft, particularly trainer planes to conserve metals, and also landing crafts. Associated with this mill was Mr. Gardiner Bridge, Herbert Payson and Dudley Boutelle, which was later sold to Paul Matheson in 1947, and now operates in a limited way in connection with Bristol Boats. This mill was the former Bingham Lumber Company plant, and was leased from that company originally.

In 1942 Mr. Glen Wing set up a sawmill in the plant formerly occupied by Baldwin's mill just below the village. His average cut has been one and a half million a year, both hard- and softwoods. He has added a dry kiln and planing mill. He plans to continue sawing with a view to supplying the growing demand for summer cottages. He operates some of his own lumber.

—MR. LESLIE J. DURGIN

—MRS. EDMUND C. MELCHER

## RECREATIONAL INDUSTRIES

The proximity of forest and river, of course, made the town more or less a gateway to hunting and fishing country, and many sportsmen have used the local inns as their headquarters. In the days when trains arrived twice daily in town, many guides met their hunting or fishing parties at the station here.

Bingham has a ski tow on Baker Mountain just above Wyman Dam. It was the first public tow in the state. Originally installed by the Allen Quimby Veneer Company, a very nominal fee was charged to local enthusiasts. It is now managed by the Bingham Ski Club.

Many widely known lumbermen and foresters were, and are now associated with the town. Three large paper companies have offices or representatives here. Since 1920 the S. D. Warren Company has had offices in the town. Hollingsworth & Whitney, later to become that branch of the Scott Paper Company, is represented and has a garage and other shops in the upper part of the town over Austin Stream, as well as a farm below town; The Hudson Paper Company, too, has representatives.

So, for a hundred and fifty years, the forests and the river have furnished the people in this "cup in the hills" not only with employment, but with recreation and unusual scenic beauty.

—LOUISE D. MELCHER

# Physicians of Bingham

EVERY TOWN HAS AMONG ITS ANNALS many types of humanity, but foremost in the list of a well organized community we find the country doctor, who was not only a medical advisor, but seemed to be the bosom friend of the family. It is true that the doctors were among the best educated people of the country, and were frequently elected to fill the highest offices of their town. The history of the lives and doings of the old-time physicians of Bingham might be woven into a most fascinating story.

Dr. Jonah Spaulding was the first of whom we find record to practice medicine in Bingham. About 1800 Dr. Jonah, as he was called, came to Maine and began his practice in Wilton. In 1812 he married Miss Betsy Hardy of Wilton and they came to West Moscow and lived on a farm on the River Road. Dr. Jonah always wore a long black coat and a broad brimmed hat. The children were in awe of him because he was frequently called upon to vaccinate them. Dr. Spaulding died in 1871 at the age of ninety-three.

Following him was his nephew, Dr. Zachariah Spaulding. He was the first settled physician in Bingham in 1830. He married Asenith, daughter of Deacon Ephriam and Lephe Goodrich Wood. The people of Bingham were very anxious for them to settle in their midst and offered the doctor many inducements. So, the most central lot in the village was chosen and the "Doctor's House" was built. It was located where Howes Filling Station now stands. Dr. Zaek made his travels in a two-wheeled gig and, before the day of the gig, rode horseback with his saddle bags across his horse. There were no roads to Caratunk, just a bridle path over the mountains. Dr. Spaulding died in 1865 and with his wife and children are resting in the Bingham Village Cemetery.

Practicing in Bingham with Dr. Zachariah Spaulding was a younger doctor, Nathan F. Blunt. The Blunt home was situated where the Samuel Smith house, now Paul Brochu's, stands, and the long hill this side was known as Blunt Hill. Dr. Blunt served on the school board for years, and many of his pupils remember that look from his somewhat stern eye and a point of a finger was all that was necessary to make them get busy. Dr. Blunt left his practice to join the army and became an army surgeon. After his return home his health was broken but he continued to practice with much skill in surgery. He brought home his little army horse and on each Fourth of July, the doctor and his spirited animal held a prominent place in the exercises. The Post organized by the ex-soldiers of the Civil War bore the name of Nathan:



F. Blunt Post in honor of this popular townsman and soldier. He died in 1871 and is buried in the village cemetery.

Dr. Joseph Spaulding, one of Dr. Zachariah's sons, succeeded his father; also a Dr. Parsons who remained in town only a short time. He lived in the same house, rode the same gig and administered to patients in the same families as his father. In 1862 he enlisted and was made First Sergeant of Co. F., 20th Regiment Maine Volunteers. He was discharged because of physical disabilities, returning to Bingham where he practiced until 1873 when he left and went to Richmond. Dr. Frank Wood Spaulding, another son of Dr. Zachariah, followed his brother in coming to Bingham in 1875. Dr. Frank considered it one



Dr. ZACHARIAH SPAULDING and the "Doctor's House" — Has been the home of seven of Bingham's physicians.

of the greatest honors ever bestowed upon him when his native townspeople sent him a letter in the form of a petition signed by many of the leading citizens of the village vicinity inviting him to return to Bingham to practice. He remained in Bingham only a short time, leaving in 1876.

Probably no physician practicing in Bingham administered to more people than Dr. Frederick G. Williams. In many instances he was the family physician for more than forty years. He came to Bingham in 1871, and established his practice, living in the Old Hotel for a while, later boarding with Willie Goodrich. He bought a house lot from

John Cummings and built his house and stable where he lived and practiced for forty-five years. The house is now the Dr. F. P. Ball residence. He died in 1916.

Between the years of 1879 and 1905, Dr. Albert Piper was a highly respected townsman and physician. He married Fanny May Pierce of Moscow in 1879. They began housekeeping in the building now called the Little Shop in 1880, where his office was also located. They were the parents of two sons, Dr. John Piper and Walter Piper. In 1884 they moved to the building where our library is now located and lived there until 1892 when they built the house on Meadow Street which is now owned by Allen P. Robinson. Dr. Piper died in 1905. Succeeding him was Dr. Nevers, who practiced here for about two years. During that time, he lived in the "Doctor's House". Dr. Mooers followed Dr. Nevers. He practiced a brief time, and lived in the same house.

In 1906 Dr. Ray C. Brown came to Bingham, built a home on Goodrich Street, had his office in his home, and practiced here until 1921 when he moved away. He returned in 1928, and for a while lived in the Hotel Annex. He was here during the construction of the Wyman Dam. He left again and in 1941 returned to practice with his office in the building now occupied by the Post Office, and died there in 1943.

Around 1911 Dr. T. W. Brimigeon came. He lived and had his office upstairs in the building known as the Bushey & Sterling Block. He was here for two or three years.

In 1914 Dr. Percival O. Hopkins came to Bingham. He built his house on Murray Street now owned by Everett Lidstone. He was a First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps of World War I, returning to practice, and died here in 1923.

Dr. Anna W. Howes, D. O., started her practice here in 1920. Her first office was upstairs in the Bushey & Sterling Block and afterwards in their home on Main Street. After twenty-two years of practice she retired, and with her husband, Davis E. Howes, moved to Concord to the Simeon Howes homestead. Dr. Howes was an R. N. in Massachusetts before her training in Osteopathy.

Dr. Orville DeVeaux came in 1923. He lived in the dwelling now known as the Yellow Bowl Inn, later buying a house on River Street known as the Stanton Giberson house, where he conducted a hospital for a while. Later he had an office in the Dutton Hotel and across the street in the Maurice Alkins building. He left here sometime in the thirties.

Dr. Burton O. Kinney came in 1924; he also lived in the Giberson house and practiced here until about 1929.

Dr. Franklin P. Ball came in 1929 from Solon where he had prac-



ticed for some time. He purchased the old Dr. Williams house on Main Street. He had his office in his home. He is a veteran of the Canadian Army, was a Captain in the Medical Corps of World War II American Army, and retired as Major, returning to practice in Bingham after his term of service. Mention has been made of some of the hardships of travel for some of the doctors in olden times, but it is also known that Dr. Ball has made many calls on skis and snowshoes to patients in rural communities where other means of travel was impossible. He and Mrs. Ball live in Florida during the winter months and return to Bingham in the summer.

During part of the time Dr. Ball was in service, Dr. Donald Larkin lived in his house and practised here for about one year.

In 1938 Dr. Andrew Fortine, D. O., practiced here. He lived at one time in the Benjamin Adams house and later in the house occupied by Wilder Rollins.

Dr. George Sullivan came in 1938. He also occupied the Benjamin Adams house, later buying the F. H. Colby house where he had his office. He joined the Navy in 1942 and was Lieutenant Commander in the Medical Corps. He returned to Bingham to practice in 1946 and was here until 1955 when he left to go to Waterville, where he is connected with the Sisters Hospital. He left many friends in Bingham who still employ him as their physician.

Dr. Dallas O. Manchester, D. O., came to Bingham about 1942 and was here until about 1946. He lived and had his office in the home on River Street also previously occupied by Drs. DeVeaux and Kinney.

In 1950 Dr. Rex Crocker was here for a very short time and lived in the Earl Taylor house.

Dr. Niles Perkins came in 1952 and bought a house in Moscow from Henry McQuilkin now known as the Alston Ward place. He had an office with Dr. George Sullivan. He was here for about two years.

Dr. Robert Golden, D. O., came in 1952. He built a beautiful home with office just below the village on land of Earl Taylor. The town is most fortunate to have had Dr. Golden staying with us through the many comings and goings of so many other doctors and hope he continues to practice here for many more years.

Dr. Herbert Miller came in 1955, buying the Stoddard house and making extensive repairs for an office. He was here until about 1959.

Dr. Ake Akerberg came in 1955, having an office upstairs in the Pierce Block. He was here for about six months.

Before this history goes to print we expect a Dr. Vincente L. Sy, a native of the Phillipines, with his family, to locate with us as a general practitioner. He has purchased the house occupied by Dr. Miller.

— MRS. LOIS B. DUTTON

# Bingham-Moscow Chamber of Commerce

Bingham-Moscow Area Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1954 with the first directors Wesley D. Baker, Dudley Boutelle, Stanley Hill, William Beane, Everett Mitchell, Charles Bemis, Walter Harwood, Ralph Tozier. Wesley D. Baker, president; Charles Bemis, vice-president; Lois B. Dutton, secretary and treasurer. The membership was thirty-four.

In 1955, the first Fishing Derby was held from Wyman Lake.

Mr. Norman Temple from the State Department of Development of Industry and Commerce was guest speaker on Ladies' Night.

In 1956, the same officers served. Fishing Derby in May.

Lawyer Harwood met with officials of the Federal Trust Company in Waterville regarding the location of their bank in Bingham. During the summer, the bank was built on the Dutton Hotel lot, and opened in December 1956.

The 1957 officers were: Fred Stait, president; Wilder C. Rollins, vice-president; and Lois B. Dutton, secretary and treasurer. Fishing Derby was held in May. Thomas H. Reynolds spoke before a meeting regarding the requirements for forming a baseball club. The Chamber joined with the Lions Club with an entertainment for the Athletic Association. Jackets were furnished for the club.

1958—Ralph Tozier, president; Arthur Gamache, vice-president; Lois B. Dutton, secretary and treasurer. The Chamber joined with the Lions and P.T.A. with a banquet for the baseball club.

1959—Charles Bemis, president; Donald Whitman, vice-president; Lois B. Dutton, secretary and treasurer. Guest night, Supt. Robert Brown was the speaker, explaining the school situation and the meeting for the formation of a district for five towns. A committee met with a representative from the Sears, Roebuck Foundation regarding a Clinic for this area.

1960—James Cahill, president; Arthur Gamache, vice-president; Lois B. Dutton, secretary and treasurer. Major Thomas Carroll and Captain Henderson from the Dow Air Base were speakers on guest night. They told of our Air Command and our security from Dow Air Base as top.

1961—Arthur Gamache, president; Maurice Alkins, vice-president; Lois B. Dutton, secretary and treasurer. The Rev. Lowell Kjenstad



was guest speaker, speaking about his native state—South Dakota. Charles Markey and Earle Williams, Supervisors of the Maine Forestry Department service, spoke regarding camp sites and picnic areas. Mr. Guy Nichols from the State Highway Department spoke on placement of camp sites.

1962—Wilder C. Rollins, president; Girard Guay, vice-president; Lois B. Dutton, secretary and treasurer. Arbor Day the Chamber sponsored the planting of six maple trees in town. The Maine Music Festival in May was sponsored by the Chamber; also the celebration of the Sesquicentennial in July. An attempt was made to have a medical doctor locate in town during the summer.



Sixty-Foot Bristol Gull built in Bingham, Maine, by Bristol Yacht Division of Allen Quimby Veneer Company.

# Social Organizations

## *PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY — BINGHAM GRANGE*

The first secret order in town was the Grange. Bingham Grange was organized April 1, 1880, by J. S. McIntire of Solon, Deputy for Somerset County, with thirty-five charter members. Jabez Hill of Moscow was the first Master and he was followed by many other able leaders.

For several years the meetings were held in what was called Holbrook Hall in the old hotel building on upper Main Street. After that was closed the meetings were held in Union Hall, over what is now Maurice Alkins' store. After several years of discussion and planning for a Grange home, the present Grange Hall on Meadow Street was built. The first meeting was held in it on October 11, 1902. The Master at that time was Granville Goodrich.

Over the years many needed improvements were made, the first of which was the stage in 1917. Soon after that fire escapes were added. As the need arose various improvements were made. The latest improvement was the installation of oil heat. The possibility of a new stove for the kitchen is being discussed, and already have a small sum of money laid aside for that purpose.

The present membership of the Grange is 136. There are at present two Golden Sheaf members.

The present Master is Russell Rupell; Overseer, Emma Giberson, and Lecturer, Mable Brown.

—MRS. GLADYS GOFF

## *BRIEF HISTORY OF BINGHAM LODGE*

Bingham Lodge No. 199, A. F. & A. M., was chartered on the 23rd day of December, 1892, on petition of the following members, all but seven of whom became charter members:

Mark Savage	Tilson H. Foss	John S. Ham
Ervin W. Moore	Albert A. Piper	Crosby Spaulding
Dexter L. Foster	Omar Clark	Henry O. Chase
John L. Lander	Frank W. Jones	Robert Woods
Fred W. Preble	Joel P. Whitney	Albert D. Cassidy
Warren Colby	John W. Sterling	Charles S. Durgin
Tilson H. Baker	Fred L. Williams	Benjamin F. Smith
William H. Morris	Samuel W. Baker	Sumner C. Hunnewell
Fred C. Dinsmore	Isaac V. Adams	William B. Hamblet
Levi C. Andrews	E. L. Webster	Warren J. Foss
Arthur N. Burke	Gustavus S. Witham	E. J. Russell
Thomas S. Whitney	George W. Baker	Edwin O. Vittum
Charles A. Coleman	Coney E. Sanborn	Henry Washburn
Ezra Pierce		



## FIRST OFFICERS OF BINGHAM LODGE

William B. Hamblet	W. M.	Benjamin F. Smith	S. D.
Ervin W. Moore	S. W.	Albert Cassidy	J. D.
Arthur N. Burke	J. W.	Henry O. Chase	S. S.
Mark Savage	Treas.	L. C. Andrews	J. S.
Charles A. Coleman	Sec.	F. H. Preble	Marshal
		Tilson Foss	Tyler

First Chaplain, Rev. James C. Gregory, 1895.

First six members who were raised before June, 1893: Samuel Smith, Elmer Dunton, Nathaniel Preble, Forrest Colby, Frank Hilton, and J. F. Adams.

There have been five members of Bingham Lodge who have held the office of District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine: David Bean, 1910; Harold A. Coleman, 1922; Arthur J. Tupper, 1933; Howard L. Bowen, 1942; and Allan Robinson, 1955.

There have been a grand total of 583 members of Bingham Lodge since its founding. Lee C. Smith has been an officer of the Lodge since 1914, and has been its secretary for forty-two years.

Land for a new lodge building was bought, in conjunction with the I.O.O.F., in 1900 from L. C. Andrews and the building was constructed in 1903. The building was wired for electricity in 1907, and new regalia and equipment was bought in 1912.

## PAST MASTERS OF BINGHAM LODGE

William W. Hamblet	Ervin W. Moore	Arthur N. Burke
Benjamin F. Smith	Edwin O. Vittum	Samuel A. Smith
David G. Bean	Leroy Badger	Frank H. Hilton
Wallace W. Stoddard	Philip A. Wood	Harold A. Coleman
Arlie A. Dinsmore	Alvah S. Witham	Lee C. Smith
Columbus S. Baker	Leon Robinson	Harry Cummings
Ernest A. Sterling	Robert W. Smith	Thales E. Spaulding
Arthur J. Tupper	D. Eugene Powell	Orville R. Forsythe
Harry E. Spaulding	Allan W. Hunnewell	John H. Gordon
J. Edwin Powell	Guy S. Hunnewell	Milton G. Baker
Robert C. Moore	Alfred F. Stevens	Howard L. Bowen
Herbert Taylor	Alvah F. Robinson	Lawrence Hopkins
Earland Rollins	Allan Robinson	Arnold Gifford
James M. Cahill	Clarence Spaulding	Lawrence Bushey
Charles L. Pooler	Rudolph M. Quint	Bernard E. Russell
Eldon G. Spaulding	Edward A. Sterling	Stanley L. Atwood
Wesley D. Baker	Douglas H. Gordon	Richard H. Spaulding
Robert Golden	Sterling V. Pierce	

## *MT. MOXIE LODGE of ODD FELLOWS, No. 137*

Mount Moxie Lodge No. 137, I.O.O.F., was instituted at Bingham September 24, 1895, with thirty-six charter members. Meetings were first held in the third story rooms over the Preble & Robinson store.

When the Fraternity Hall was built in 1905, they had rooms furnished there for their meetings and shared other facilities with the Masonic orders.

The present officers are: Noble Grand, Norris Clark; Vice Grand, Forrest Rollins; Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary, Vinal Adams; Treasurer, Eugene Beane. Earl Lister is Chaplain.

### *CENTENNIAL REBEKAH LODGE, No. 100*

The Lodge came into existence after much careful planning and deliberation as to its purposes and maintenance. There must also have been a longing in the hearts of some people for the exemplification of those great principles upon which the Order is founded.

The charter having been applied for and granted, the evening of December 21, 1900, was chosen as the date for the institution of the Lodge. The Grand Master, and other officers of the Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F. of Maine, and also the president of the Rebekah Assembly of Maine, were present in Bingham for the purpose of instituting the new Lodge.

The degree staff of Northern Light Rebekah Lodge of Solon was also present, and conferred the Rebekah Degree upon a class of seventy-five candidates. The only one of those first candidates remaining today is Mrs. Stacy G. Fitzsimmons of Skowhegan, and her membership has not been continuous as she dropped her membership for several years and then was reinstated.

Mrs. Carrie Hilton, a charter member and later a Past Noble Grand as well as Recording Secretary for many years, was influential in naming the lodge "Centennial" Rebekah Lodge. The name seemed appropriate as it was the Centennial year—1900.

The Lodge was instituted, and the degree conferred, in the old Kennebec Hall over the Preble & Robinson store, but the regular meeting place was in the third story of the building over the hall. In spite of the fact that it was a little attic room with low ceilings, poor ventilation, dim lights, and a smoky little stove, many pleasant evenings were spent there, and many solemn vows were taken around the altar.

The first regular meeting of Centennial Rebekah Lodge was held on New Year's evening, January 1, 1901, with all officers in their chairs. The officers for the first year were: Mrs. Alice Goodrich, Noble Grand; Mrs. Sadie Andrews, Vice Grand; Mrs. Carrie Hilton, Secretary; Mrs. May Holden, Treasurer; Mrs. Frankie Chase, Warden; Mrs. Belle Clark, Conductor; Mrs. Viola Colby, Chaplain; Mrs. Cora



Reynolds, Inside Guardian; Mrs. Lillian Reynolds, Outside Guardian; Mrs. Belle Williams, Right Supporter to the Noble Grand; Mrs. Madeline Bray, Left Supporter to the Noble Grand; Mrs. Alice Dinsmore, Right Supporter to the Vice Grand; and Miss Bina Burns, Left Supporter to the Vice Grand.

The first few years were very busy ones for the new lodge, as the records show. Everything was bought new, and the purchasing committee was kept busy ordering lodge supplies and equipment. There were suppers and other money-making projects, for, besides the current expenses, the new home was in view. There was hardly a meeting without an application for membership, and at the end of the first year the Lodge had a membership of ninety-six, which is about the same as we have today. Along with the hard work, there were many interesting programs and social evenings.



OLON ROBINSON and the OLD SNOW ROLLER

At the meeting on March 18, 1902, the Lodge voted to have a penny collection for the benefit of the sick members, and this penny collection remains an important part of our Lodge meetings today.

Mrs. Sadie Andrews followed as the second Noble Grand; and paraphernalia seemed to be the principal project during most of that year. During the third year, with Mrs. Carrie Hilton as Noble Grand, material for robes was purchased at a cost of \$72.00, and two members cut the robes and assisted in making them. These new robes were used for the first time at an initiation on November 3, 1903, and continued in use for about twenty-five years.

During the summer of 1902 work began on the present Fraternity Hall, a three-story building costing about \$8,000.00, and on April 19, 1904, the first Rebekah meeting was held there. This was during the fourth year when Mrs. Myrtie Cummings was serving as Noble Grand; a very busy year for the new home had to be furnished.

Mrs. Viola Colby was the fifth Noble Grand, and the first one to be installed in the new hall. Following these first five were: Mrs. Florence M. Owens, Mrs. Georgia M. Colby, Mrs. Nellie Clark, Mrs. Bina Preble, Mrs. Susan Preble, Mrs. Effie J. Robinson Craig, Mrs. Eunice J. Baker, Mrs. Ethel E. Robinson, Mrs. Lillian Dunton, Mrs. Laura Hussey, Mrs. Addie Dutton, Mrs. Faustena Andrews, Mrs. Emma Gipson, Mrs. Annie E. Moore, Mrs. Junia Witham, Mrs. Linnie B. Spaulding, Mrs. Cora Reynolds, Mrs. Eunice Hardy, Mrs. Marion Robinson, Mrs. Gertrude Russell, Mrs. Helen McCollor, Mrs. Annie Spalding, Mrs. Addie Jones, Mrs. Almedia Spalding, Mrs. Jennie Robinson, Mrs. Flossie Beane, Mrs. Mildred Bray, Mrs. Althea Lamson, Mrs. Hazel Roberts, Mrs. Floy Robinson, Mrs. Marion Stockson, Mrs. Glenna Lombard, Mrs. Aurilla Shepardson, Mrs. Cassie Durgin, Mrs. Julia Beane, Mrs. Lura Dority, Mrs. Eva Fecteau, Mrs. Marion Campbell, Mrs. Verna McCollor, Mrs. Betty Stuart, Mrs. Villa Laweryson, Mrs. Mary Clark, Mrs. Ruth Clark, Mrs. Erma Hutchins, Mrs. Leola Rollins, Mrs. Ida West, and Mrs. Cecelia Morris.

Many of these have served twice and some even three times during the years. Our present Noble Grand, Mrs. Ruth Clark, is serving for the second time. Twenty-three of these Past Noble Grands are still active members of the Lodge, one has transferred her membership to another lodge, and one withdrew her membership some years ago. Twenty-eight have answered that final summons which awaits us all, two within the past few weeks.

Once every four years, our Lodge is asked to furnish a District Deputy President for our District, which consists of the lodges in Bingham, Solon, North Anson and New Portland. Mrs. Myrtie Cummings was one of the early Deputies from our Lodge, who served about 1914, when each Deputy served two years, and the officers were installed in January. Of course, automobiles were not so common in those days and most of their traveling was done in a horse-drawn sleigh. Mrs. Cummings often told of the trip from Bingham to New Portland; of the hours spent on the road, and how they would stop in North Anson to visit friends, get warm and have a lunch. Sometimes they would change horses there and would always heat bricks to put in the sleigh to help keep their feet warm. A number of our Past Noble Grands have served as District Deputies during the years, but now



the officers are installed in October, and it is just a short journey to New Portland in our modern automobiles, and over our good roads.

Some of our loyal and faithful members have served as officers year after year. In the early days of the Lodge, Mrs. Rose Lander served as treasurer for twenty years or more, and afterwards Mrs. Gertrude Russell held the office for fifteen years. Mrs. Carrie Hilton served as recording secretary for about twenty years, and following her, Mrs. Faustena Andrews held the office for sixteen years. Mrs. Hazel Roberts has held the office of financial secretary for the past fourteen years.

Some years ago it was decided that our hall needed redecorating, so, with the assistance of our Odd Fellows Lodge, we went to work. The men painted the walls and ceiling of our lodge hall and the Rebekahs purchased a new rug for the floor. The Odd Fellows and Masonic Orders combined to have the hall painted on the outside, and also to paint the kitchen and dining room inside. Some years ago, all the Orders combined to purchase a new furnace. Altogether our Lodge Home is very attractive and comfortable, and we are very proud of it. We have received many compliments on our attractive hall from visitors coming from other lodges around the State.

We have two life members at present—Mrs. Faustena Andrews and Mrs. Linnie Spaulding. Mrs. Effie Jane Craig, who passed away recently, was also a life member. All of these have belonged more than fifty years. Mrs. Ivie Quann of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will receive her Fifty-Year Jewel in November of this year.

Many of our loyal and faithful members have joined that Great Fraternity above during the years, and in May of each year a memorial service is held in their honor.

The present officers of the Lodge, who were installed last October, are: Mrs. Ruth Clark, Noble Grand; Mrs. Alice Clark, Vice Grand; Mrs. Selma McCollor, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Hazel Roberts, Financial Secretary; Mrs. Julia Beane, Treasurer; Mrs. Leola Rollins, Warden; Mrs. Erma Hutchins, Conductor; Mrs. Glenna Lombard, Chaplain; Mrs. Cecelia Morris, Junior Past Noble Grand; Mrs. Mary Clark, Left Supporter to the Noble Grand; Mrs. Erma Pratt, Musician; Mrs. Beverly MacDonald, Inside Guardian; Mrs. Mabel Brown, Outside Guardian; Mrs. Laura Steward, Left Supporter to the Vice Grand; Mrs. Villa Laweryson, Right Supporter to the Vice Grand. Mrs. Lura Dority, recently deceased, held the office of Right Supporter to the Noble Grand for many years, and has not yet been replaced.

In January, 1951, we celebrated our Fiftieth Anniversary with a nice program, and are now looking forward to our Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, which is only a few years away.

It has been said that one of the greatest things in the world today is friendship, and that is the object of our organization. May we continue to prosper and serve our fellow men, forgetting self in the joy of useful service as the coming years go by.

—MRS. GLENNA LOMBARD

### *BINGHAM CHAPTER No. 77, O. E. S.*

Bingham Chapter, No. 77, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized December 12, 1900, and a charter granted May 16, 1901.

There were thirty-five charter members, namely: Juliette Adams, Edith Andrews, Mary H. Beane, Mary W. Colby, Carrie Colby, Grace Colby, Belle Dinsmore, Mary Eames, Mae L. Foss, Alice S. Foss, Abbie E. Hilton, Florence Lander, Lucinda C. Moore, Emma C. Miller, Fannie Piper, Lephe S. Preble, Delia Webster, Clara Bray, Grace Vittum, Jane Vittum, Sue Preble, Esther L. Smith, Addie Woods, Belle P. Williams, Nellie Robinson, David Beane, Henry Collins, George Eames, Tilson Foss, Samuel Smith, Robert Woods, Walter E. Robinson, Forrest H. Colby, Fred H. Preble, and Edwin O. Vittum.

Lephe Preble was the first Worthy Matron, and Samuel Smith the first Worthy Patron who served in that capacity for eight consecutive years. Other officers for the year 1901 were as follows:

Delia Webster, Associate Matron; Juliette Adams, Conductress; Emma Miller, Secretary; Mary Colby, Treasurer; Mary Eames, Adah; Addie Woods, Ruth; Fannie Piper, Esther; Emma Whitney, Martha; Lucinda Moore, Electa; and Florence Lander, Organist.

We were unable to obtain the names of those who served as Associate Conductress, Chaplain, Marshal, Warder, and Sentinel for that year.

The meetings were held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, in an attic over the present Kennebec Hall in the Preble and Robinson block. Light was obtained by kerosene lamps suspended from the ceiling. Wooden settees were arranged along the sides of the sloping walls to accommodate the members. In 1905 the Masonic lodge rooms were transferred to the present location, and the Eastern Star rented these rooms from the Masons to use as a Chapter room.

A rented organ furnished the music until 1904, when a used organ was purchased. This was used in conjunction with victrola records until February 1923, when the old organ was sold and the present piano purchased.

In 1935, in keeping with various other Chapters, it was voted



to discontinue one meeting a month and to hold our Chapter meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.

In 1943 a gift of \$1,000.00 was received from the Al Hilton estate of Anson, in memory of his wife Sarah Nottage Hilton, who became a member of Bingham Chapter September 13, 1916, and who passed away June 1936.

Bingham Chapter has been honored by having three Grand Officers: Elizabeth S. Moore, Grand Martha in 1934; Josephine Sawyer, Grand Chaplain in 1936; Ruby F. Robinson, Grand Warder in 1942.

We also have had four District Deputy Grand Matrons: Edith K. Dinsmore in 1919; Grace M. Smith in 1934; Eva D. Bachleder in 1930-31; and Dorothy B. Shaw in 1956-57.

Since the Chapter was organized the following have served as Worthy Matrons: Lephe Preble, 1901-02; Delia Webster, 1903; Belle Williams, 1904-05; Addie Woods, 1906-07; Mary Baker, 1908; Emma Whitney, 1909-10; Florence Lander, 1911; Nellie Robinson, 1912-13; Lilla Dunton, 1914; Abbie Hilton, 1915; Stacy Witham, 1916; Addie Dutton, 1917; Edith K. Dinsmore, 1918; Lucinda Moore, 1919; Junia Witham, 1920; Grace Smith, 1921; Eunice Hardy, 1922; Myrtie Cummings, 1923.

Charlotte Sterling, 1924; Estelle Hilton, 1925; Josephine Sawyer, 1926; Eva D. Bachelder, 1927; Stella Montgomery, 1928; Anna S. Howes, 1929; Ruby F. Robinson, 1930; Louise Pierce, 1931; Elizabeth Moore, 1932; Grace H. Pooler, 1933; Annie Spalding, 1934; Jessie LaPoint, 1935; Mary Taylor, 1936; May B. Tupper, 1937; Clara Bowen, 1938; Jane Durgin, 1939; Bina Preble, 1940; Dassie Nickerson, 1941; Kathleen F. Doe, 1942; Mattie Thompson, 1943; Hazel Whitman, 1944; Eda E. Williams, 1945; Alice M. Andrews, 1946; Dorothy B. Shaw, 1947; Alice E. Davis, 1948-56; Ernestine Bushey, 1949.

Dorothy Quint, 1950; Bertha Haggan, 1951; Margaret C. Hill, 1952; Villa Laweryson, 1953; Sadie Holmes, 1954; Beverly Stuart, 1955; Eloise Kershner, 1957; Patricia Hunt, 1958; Selma McCollor, 1959; Charline Hunnewell, 1960; and Gertrude Williams, 1961.

The following have served as Worthy Patrons: Samuel Smith, 1901-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18; William Richmond, 1909-10; Arlie Dinsmore, 1919-20; Walter Robinson, 1921-22; Harry Cummings, 1923-24-25-26; Robert Smith, 1927; Harold Coleman, 1928; Allan P. Robinson, 1929-30-54; Orville Forsythe, 1931; Howard Bowen, 1932-37; Harry Spalding, 1933; Arthur Tupper, 1934-35; Harold Doe, 1936-42; Blin Witham, 1938; Floyd Nickerson, 1939-41-57; Alfred Stevens, 1940; Guy Hunnewell, 1943-44-45-47-49; Clayton Andrews, 1946; Ernest Davis, 1948-56; Rudolph Quint, 1950-51; Earl W. Hill,

1952-53; Richard Spalding, 1955-60; John Hunt, 1958; and Douglas Gordon, 1959-61.

Officers serving for the year 1962 are as follows: Rosalie Walker, Worthy Matron; Donald Walker, Worthy Patron; Frances Sterling, Associate Matron; F. Donald Sterling, Associate Patron; Alice M. Andrews, Secretary; Dassie M. Nickerson, Treasurer; Julia Hansen, Conductress; Sadie Holmes, Associate Conductress; Margaret C. Hill, Chaplain; Nancy York, Marshal; Doris Rupell, Organist; Gertrude Williams, Adah; Geneva Gordon, Ruth; Joyce Baker, Esther; Elaine Tremblay, Martha; Grace H. Pooler, Electa; Selma McCollor, Warder; and Bernard Andrews, Sentinel

We of the present day have much admiration and respect for those early members who started and kept alive our beautiful Order of the Eastern Star, and passed on to us the teachings and precepts which they exemplified throughout their lives.

— MRS. ALICE M. ANDREWS, *Secretary*

### BINGHAM CENTURY CLUB

On February 16, 1912, a group of forty-five ladies met at the home of Mrs. Marita Savage to consider the organization of a woman's club. Clubs had been organized in many of the surrounding towns and it was the general opinion of all present that Bingham should have a woman's literary club with its object "Intellectual and Social Betterment". Thirty-two of these ladies signed their names as charter members and thus a club was formed. This being Bingham's Centennial year, the club was appropriately named "Century Club".

The following ladies were chosen to serve as officers for the first year: President, Mrs. Nancy Whipple; Vice-President, Mrs. Ethel Brown; Secretary, Mrs. Florence Owens; Treasurer, Mrs. May Tupper; Historian, Mrs. Alice Goodrich. "Courtesy and Good Fellowship to All" was chosen as the motto and the goldenrod selected as the club flower. The club in the fall of that year became a member of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs.

Being a literary club, with "Intellectual Betterment" as part of its objective, the club ladies diligently labored to accomplish this aim. They debated, studied, wrote articles and book reviews. In the early years of its existence the members furnished the programs for most of its meetings. The subjects studied have been miscellaneous, including current events, travel, history, nature, music, poetry and art.

While "Intellectual Betterment" applied mainly to the members themselves, in keeping with our aim for "Social Betterment" the club has tried to enter into the life of the community and extend help



whenever possible. We have always been interested in the schools. Each year an educational committee is appointed whose duty it is to bring the club in closer touch with the teachers and pupils. We were instrumental one year in bringing into the schools a qualified drawing teacher. When the Domestic Science and Manual Training courses were introduced, the club contributed toward the furnishings of the rooms.

Arbor Day exercise were held one year and trees were planted on some of the new streets. Several of the elms planted by the club are now beautiful shade trees. The first community Christmas Tree was sponsored by the Century Club.

The Century Club was influential in bringing about a re-organization of the Bingham Union Library and it has always been one of the main interests of the club. In former years the club donated many books to the Library for circulation. Last year a group of club ladies acted as hostesses for an "Open House Day" during Library Week.

When the Parish House was built, we contributed toward the piano, dishes for the dining room, curtains and an American Flag. Flower beds were planted on the lawns of the three churches for a number of years. During the war years the club tried to do its part. We bought bonds, knitted socks, sweaters and helmets, packed boxes and helped in every possible way.

For many years the club was responsible for the Christmas Seal Drive and has also sponsored the Cancer Drive for a number of years. Contributions are made each year to various good causes. Through the years we have contributed to the Easter Seal Drive, March of Dimes, Good Samaritan Home, New England Home for Little Wanderers, Penny Art Fund, State Education Loan Fund, Opportunity Farm, Veterans at Togus, Care, Inc., Salvation Army and Maine Chaplaincy Service.

Organized in 1912, this year marks our Golden Anniversary. Of our thirty-two charter members, eight are now living, although only two are still club members. We have had forty-three presidents, twenty-eight of whom are now living. We are entering our fifty-first year in October with forty-five active members and four honorary members, and with Mrs. Hazel Whitman as president.

As we look back over the years, we are proud of our Century Club and the record it has made and we look forward with confidence that in the years to come the same high standard of service will be maintained and the purpose of the Century Club will continue to be "Intellectual and Social Betterment".

— MRS. GRACE H. POOLER

## THE GOOD WILL CLUB

The Good Will Club is what its name implies. It was organized in Moscow at the home of Mrs. Edith Hunnewell in November, 1916. The purpose of the Club was to aid the needy, and to enjoy a social hour together.

As time went on many of the members moved to Bingham, and so did the Club. It continued to meet at the homes of the members until there were too many members and it now meets in the Grange Hall. It holds its meetings every two weeks, except in the summer months, with a dinner each time to which the families of the members come.

The Good Will Club has spread much cheer to the ill and needy and contributed to many worthy causes. The Club owns a considerable amount of hospital supplies which it loans free of charge to those who need them.

The present membership is seventy-five. The president is Mrs. Doris Rupell.

### *STANLEY BEANE POST, No. 99, AMERICAN LEGION*

Stanley Beane Post, No. 99, American Legion, was founded in the year 1920. although it did not receive its charter until the following year.

It had as its founders the following persons:

Steane Collins	Floyd Padham	Alton Durgin
Forrest Doyle	Stanley Parlin	Don McTaggett
Wilmont Doyle	Alfred Pugh	Leslie Durgin
Donald Goff	Robert Smith	Errol Hilton
John Gordon	Beecher Vincent	Andrew Comber
Chester Hewett	Raymond Carl	Harry Morris
Dr. P. O. Hopkins	Moses Cilley	Thales Spaulding
Philip O. Jacques	Winfield Powell	Ed Allen
Robert Moore	Clifford Keene	Carl Curtis
Lester Morris		

At a recent meeting of the Post, the following members were awarded Membership Pins: Forty-year pins, Robert Moore, and Andrew Comber; twenty-five-year pins, Donat Chasse, Dr. Franklin Ball, and Carl Curtis.

Each year the Post has honored those who died in military service by holding Memorial Day services, a ceremony which, some years before, had been performed by "The Grand Army of The Republic."

This year the Post has sponsored the name for the new Junior-Senior High School. The name selected is: The Upper Kennebec Valley Memorial High School. At the dedication of the school in October, a Bronze Plaque will be presented by the Legion to the



school in memory of those of the Upper Kennebec Valley who died in the service of their country. At that time a new flag will also be presented to the school.

At the present time the officers of the Post are as follows:

Commander, John Baker; First Vice-Commander, Robert Hunnewell; Second Vice-Commander, Lewis Davis; Finance Officer, Edward Sterling; Sergeant-At-Arms, George Adams; Service Officer, Richard Spalding; Chaplain, Joseph Bourque; Historian, Robert Moore; Adjutant, Edward Bray; Assistant Adjutant, Stanton Hunnewell.

— EDWARD BRAY

### *AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY*

The American Legion Auxiliary of the Stanley Beane Post No. 99, was organized November 26, 1921, at the home of Mrs. Mae Hopkins with twenty-one charter members. Anna Smith Howes was the first president.

Through the years this organization has brought cheer to many veterans and their families, and contributed to many worthwhile causes. The members are especially proud of the gifts sent annually to the Gift Shop to be given to the patients to send to their families each Christmas.

The Poppy Sale is also an annual project, Memorial Poppies being sold for the benefit of veterans. The poppies are made by patients of Togus Veterans Hospital.

After World War II new members were added. There are now thirty-one members. Miss Gertrude Williams is president for the current year.

— MRS GLADYS GOFF

### *BINGHAM LIONS CLUB*

The Lions Club is known throughout the world because of the number and importance of its activities. Its purpose is to serve the community in all possible ways unselfishly. It affords an opportunity for any public-spirited individual to serve in the particular field in which he is most interested.

The greatest field of Lions' endeavor is connected with Sight Conservation, Work for the Blind, Community Betterment, Health and Welfare, and services to boys and girls of the community.

Lions are non-political and non-sectarian. It is composed of leading citizens, and their purpose is to recognize the needs of the community and develop means of meeting them, either through their own effort, or by cooperation with other agencies. Their aim is to make

the community more attractive, and more active commercially, better known and a better place to live in.

With these things in mind, a group of citizens of Bingham and Moscow entertained an agreement with Lions International to form a Lions Service Club and received their Charter in July 1947.

Allan P. Robinson served as their first president and King Lion. It had a roster of twenty-four active members. Over the years the number of members has increased, and at times decreased, but interest and service have been sustained. A charter member has had 100% perfect attendance, and several have ten-year and more perfect attendance buttons.

This year Calvin Cary is the presiding officer, 1962-63, and Joseph Begin is serving as secretary and treasurer.

— JOSEPH BEGIN



Present home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Knowles. The ell was built about 1801 by Joshua Goodrich III; the main part of the house about 1825. The place is still in the family. It was first settled by Joshua and Betsey Robbins Goodrich and passed on to their son, Simeon Granville and Claude Goodrich. Mrs. Knowles is the daughter of Claude.



# Bingham Union Library

THE STORY OF THE LIBRARY is the story of the women who gave unstintingly of their time to procure the cultural advantages of good reading for their town.

The first record is that of a group of fifty readers forming what was called The Bingham-Moscow-Concord Circulating Library. There were 137 books and dues were twenty-five cents a year. Mrs. Joel Colby was one of the first presidents. It was formed in 1856.

In 1872 it was reorganized, dues were doubled and there were 400 books, one of which remains on the shelves — it is "The Memoirs of the Reverend Josiah Peet". The books were kept in various homes, in stores, once in the post office, and later were stored for a time in the Old Church. All this time the women collected the dues, kept the records and from time to time purchased new books.

In 1921 a committee was appointed by the Century Club to see what could be done to revive the association. Mrs. Lucinda Moore, Mrs. Mary Baker and Mrs. Alice Goodrich, chairman, were to look into the possibility of obtaining a regular room. Such a place was found in the corner of the store of Mrs. Etta Holt. The rent was ninety dollars per year. The three women requested an article be placed in the town warrant to obtain one hundred dollars for the Library. There was some opposition, but the husbands of the three ladies were enthusiastic supporters and \$150.00 was raised.

The enthusiasm was so well sustained that the list of contributors expanded to list nearly every citizen giving time, money or other support. Mrs. Alice Goodrich became the president of the Library Association. Committees were named to solicit funds, books and members. Others were named to raise funds through sales and entertainment. Almost every week some event was scheduled such as whist parties, dances, food sales, rummage sales and sales of home-made candy.

By 1922 a thousand dollars had been raised and when the little white house on Main Street was offered for sale the Library Association was able to buy it.

This house, built about 1841 or a bit later by Cyrus Hunter, is a typical New England home of the type called Cape Cod. It is a one and a half story building with a central doorway leading into a small entrance hall from which a very unusual circular stairway ascends.

In 1922 the books were placed in the new quarters after gifts of necessary furniture, labor and time had made it possible. Soon after-

ward a bequest of books from the estate of Mrs. Mary Brainerd containing many classics was given. The list of books and the cross-indexing was done by Roy Savage and Leon Goodrich.

The women continued to raise money by all the various methods until a generous bequest of Mrs. Belle P. Williams paid off the indebtedness and the remainder of the fund was placed in the bank by the Trustees to be used for future needs.

By 1924 a paid Librarian—still Mrs. Alice Goodrich—was hired for one dollar a week with the stipulation that the building be open two days each week. At last the Library was firmly established as a part of the community. After serving thirteen years Mrs. Goodrich died in 1937.

Mrs. Myrtie Cummings, Mrs. Eda Williams, Mrs. Vera Lindsley and Miss Rebecca Gilman filled in the next years.

In 1953 it became necessary to find a Librarian. Mrs. Elizabeth G. Jordan agreed to move into the south half of the building and to serve as Librarian. Accordingly, the stacks and bookcases were moved to the north side, a small room was made into a room for the children's books, a new heating system installed, and the south rooms became her home. Since that time she has continued with her work, and both the south and north sides have become more home-like by her presence.

There are now approximately four thousand volumes consisting of reference books, good adult fiction, classics, and a very fine collection of children's books. The Library rooms are open on Tuesdays from 3 to 5, and Saturdays 2 to 5, and Saturday evenings 7 to 9. During school weeks it is open during noon hour for convenience of pupils. The past year there were 3,897 books taken out, 861 by children and 2,029 by adults. It is hoped that this number will continue to increase.

— MRS. EDMUND C. MELCHER



# Water Supply

THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE FIRST SETTLERS must have been from natural sources—the river, streams or nearby springs—until such time as wells could be dug. The water from these first wells must have been drawn in the “Old Oaken Bucket”. Later pumps were set either outside near the house or in the kitchen close to the sink if the source would allow. Wells were also used near the barn or stable to supply the stock if possible.

Older people have recalled neighborhood pumps set near the street where neighbors might draw or passing people pause and drink. A well and pump near one of the houses on Main Street near the old schoolhouses was a source of water supply for the schools when water was brought in a tin pail and passed around.

Springs sometimes supplied a tub or trough near the highway where the traveler might stop to slack his thirst or water his team.

Tradition has it that the first aqueduct in town was laid in wooden pipes and supplied the hotel. An old deed found among some family papers tells the story. Here is a gist of the deed:

“Know all men that I, Samuel Cummings, of Bingham, County of Somerset and State of Maine, in consideration of the sum of \$12.00 paid by Pickard Goodrich, Jotham Goodrich, Chandler Baker, Benjamin Smith, II, William Rowell, and Rev. Sidney Turner, all of Bingham, aforesaid, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby grant, sell and convey unto said Pickard Goodrich, Jotham S. Goodrich, Chandler Baker, Benjamin Smith, II, William Rowell, and Rev. Sidney Turner, their heirs and assigns certain rights and privileges in and to a spring of water situated in my pasture southwesterly from my house, being the same spring dug out and stoned and from which an Aquaduct was laid by them September, last; to wit: the right and privilege to pass across my land to repair and relay said Aquaduct and repair said spring, and draw water from said spring in sufficient quantity of water to supply the present, or any other Aquaduct which may be laid by them, their heirs, or assigns, provided said spring shall be sufficient water: reserving to myself, however, the right to draw from said spring by a spout laid above the entrance of the spring into the Aquaduct, the surplus water in said spring; not however to interfere with the supply for said Aquaduct.”

This deed was signed, sealed and delivered by Samuel R. Cummings the 12th day of December, in the year of Our Lord One thou-

sand eight hundred and fifty-three, in the presence of Joel Colby, and Simeon Goodrich, Justice of Peace.

After some research the people involved were found to be: Samuel Cummings, grandfather of the late Harry Cummings and great, great grandfather of John Gordon who lived on the place now owned by Cecil Lawyerson. The men involved in buying the right to the spring were Pickard Goodrich, grandfather of Mrs. Florence Milliken Owens, who still lives in the home where he lived on Main Street; Jotham Goodrich, a grandson of the first Joshua Goodrich, lived in the hotel or Stage House opposite Pickard's home where the bank now stands; Benjamin Smith, II, who used to be in business here, may have lived at that time in the house that stood next above the hotel where he and his son, Byron Smith, did keep a store; William Rowell, who built and lived at one time in the house where Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moore and Robert's parents and maternal grandparents lived; Chandler Baker lived in the building known as the Old Hotel at the upper part of the town which was destroyed in the fire of 1911; the Rev. Sidney Turner lived in the house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harwood. How long this aqueduct served as a supply for those houses is not known.

One on Sidney Goodrich's Side Hill, another on the O'Hara Hill, another on the Owens Farm were used as sources of small privately-owned water systems which served in their day but eventually became inadequate.

In 1895 a group of citizens—Messrs. Henry Washburn, George Clark and James Smith, incorporated the Bingham Water Company to furnish water for domestic and sanitary purposes to the inhabitants of Bingham and to enter into a contract with the town for furnishing fire protection. The source of supply was to be Temple Pond in Moscow. Stock was to be issued to the amount of \$50,000. It was chartered by the 1895 legislature as Chapter 122 of P&S Laws. Apparently nothing ever came of it.

Again in 1911 The Bingham Water Company was chartered as Chapter 14, with Smith, Cooley, Gordon, Donigan, Brown, Robinson and Goss as the new incorporation with stock at \$75,000. This became void when the legislature of that session chartered the Bingham Water District as Chapter 13 of the P&S Laws. This was accepted by the voters of the town.

### *BINGHAM WATER DISTRICT*

On July 12, 1911, the voters of Bingham met and formed the Bingham Water District, it having become apparent to them that the springs and private water supplies were no longer sufficient for their needs.



The first trustees appointed were Forrest Colby, Harold I. Goss and Carl Taylor; the Superintendent, a Mr. Gallivan (his pay, \$2.00 per day). Late in the year 1911 water was furnished to one hundred customers and to the reservoir built on the hill back of Sam Smith's house from Jackson Pond in Concord at a cost of \$40,000.

This continued to serve Bingham residents until 1956. It no longer being a sufficient supply, a gravel-packed well was put down on the Eva Morris property in Concord Plantation at a cost of \$60,000. This provides 1,200 gallons a minute of cold, clean, odorless water to 450 customers in Bingham and Concord, and for fire protection. The trustees at the time of this installation were Donald R. Folsom, superintendent; Robie B. Howes and Steven Mihovan.

— MRS. ALICE DAVIS

— MRS. ELIZABETH JORDAN

# The Bridge

*I came to my native town,  
And by the river side went down,  
Where I had often gone before  
To have the boatman set me o'er;  
And there a bridge of ample size  
To span the river, met my eyes.  
Entranced, upon the bank I stood;  
It put me in so pleased a mood,  
That we should need the boat no more  
To take us to the other shore.  
And in the spring and in the fall  
There now will be no risk at all  
Of falling in and being drowned,  
Because the ice is so unsound.  
If one at night is taken ill  
And needs a good physician's skill,  
Who lives upon the other shore,  
One now will have to wait no more  
For early beams of morning light,  
Because unsafe to send by night;  
Nor need one hear the doctor say,  
To his great sorrow and dismay,  
"Had I been here the night before  
Your child to health I could restore;  
But now, alas, it is too late  
And certain death must be its fate."  
How ill has been endured  
For want of help secured,  
To stay the progress of disease  
And give the suffering patient ease.  
It was a man from Concord town,  
A man of honor and renown  
Who worked so hard to gain this prize,  
That's so important in our eyes;  
But he has earned a lasting fame  
And Edward Vittum is his name.  
But other men with purpose grand,  
Have kindly lent a helping hand  
And should be well remembered too;  
For lasting honor is their due.*



No greater good was ever done  
For any place by anyone,  
Than building this fine bridge so strong  
That has been needed here so long.  
I well remember long ago  
Through water high, through water low,  
My father and my brother, too,  
Took people in a light canoe.  
And thus it was they set them o'er  
And left them on the other shore.  
And when they took a ferry boat  
For horses, it was left to float,  
And, Oh, how hard it was to row  
And keep the ferry boat in tow.  
But now with how much greater ease  
We'll go and come just when we please;  
And those who live on Concord side,  
Will feel a just and honest pride,  
That now with ease they can repair  
To God's own house of praise and prayer;  
To have their hearts with rapture stirred  
By listening to God's sacred word  
Proclaimed from pulpit to the pew,  
A story old, yet ever new.

— CYNTHIA GOODRICH McQUILKIN

The above poem was written to be read at the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of the Congregational Church in the summer of 1905, the same summer that the bridge was completed. Mrs. McQuilkin was the daughter of Abijah Goodrich, the boatman referred to in the verses. Her brother, Marshall, was also the boatman at one time. They lived in the house where Walter Garland used to live, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robie Howes.

# Bingham Fire Department

AS THE RESULT OF a major fire in 1911 that destroyed a tenement house and several business places, the townspeople became more fire conscious. Consequently, a group of local men assembled to discuss the organization of a fire department for the future protection of the town.

At a meeting held on May 14, 1912, Perley Foss was elected chief, having had some experience with a fire department in another town. Leon Goodrich was elected secretary at the same meeting.

The earliest roll call in the record book listed the following names: B. F. Adams, E. E. Andrews, John Bergonzi, J. W. Bowers, John Briggs, Frank Bryant, William Coleman, A. A. Dinsmore, F. L. Furbush, Leon Goodrich, Bert Hunnewell, Charles Millett, Howard Moore, W. E. Robinson, Andrew Rollins, Harold Smith, Samuel A. Smith and W. W. Smith.

At that time, the department consisted of two groups known as Hose No. One and Ladder No. One.

That same year (1912) the town purchased a piece of land and a building was erected to house the fire fighting equipment, which consisted of two hand-drawn carts equipped with a pole to which a rope was attached. One cart held the hose and the other held the ladders.

At the Annual Town Meeting in 1914, the town voted to support the volunteer fire department, and the Board of Trade raised the amount of one thousand dollars which was used to purchase the necessary material to finish the upstairs of what has since been known as the Firemen's Hall. Members of the department volunteered their labor and the money was later repaid with funds raised by holding dances and other fund-raising projects.

After a fire, the wet hose was hung in the tower to dry by the aid of a large wood-burning stove that was donated by Will Andrews. This was later replaced by a wood-burning furnace that also heated the upstairs.

In 1915, a hose-reel that held approximately two hundred and fifty feet of hose was added to the equipment.

The first fire truck was purchased in the fall of 1929, and in



1948 the fire truck which is in use at the present time was purchased. These trucks carry approximately twenty-eight hundred feet of hose, and the latter has a tank that holds five hundred gallons of water, which has proved to be a great asset many times.

A rather humorous incident took place when the 1948 truck was first put in to use. A fireman, thinking he was filling the booster tank, was inadvertently pouring water into the gas tank.

An oil-burning furnace was installed in the Firemen's Hall in 1959, and this year (1962) the building has been insulated, the interior repaired and painted, greatly improving its appearance.

The first major fire after the department was organized occurred at 4:05 A. M. on August 19, 1912, when a stable belonging to Dr. Philip Woods burned to the ground. This was located in the rear of where the Library now stands.

Other fires of note:

In 1913 fire destroyed the American Shoe Finding Company's plant, one of the town's major industries.

In 1923 the last block mill burned, threatening the lower end of the town. Probably the coldest fire fighting experienced was when what was known as the "Farmers Union" store burned in the winter of 1925 when the temperature stood at forty degrees below zero. It was located where the White Cash Market now stands.

On Christmas Eve, 1926, the V. I. Pierce clothing store and upstairs tenements were severely damaged by fire and water. Disaster struck this same business block again in 1930 when a fire destroyed a three-story building known as "The Bee-Hive", and a building occupied by the Central Maine Power Company as an office and display room located in the same block.

Several thoroughbred riding horses were lost when fire, believed to be of incendiary origin, leveled the stables of the Dutton House in 1929.

One of the town's main garages and a barn were destroyed in 1934, and in May of that same year the Hotel Cahill was wiped out by fire.

In 1937 a building known as the "Hunnewell Block," housing Hunnewell's store and restaurant, with rooms upstairs and attached to the E. W. Moore and Son drugstore, was badly damaged, but through the efforts of the fire department the blaze was brought under control.

This is where the Sportsmen's Restaurant, the A&P market, and drugstore are now located.

On June 9, 1946, a sixteen-year old girl succumbed to smoke inhalation suffered when the house-trailer in which she was sleeping caught fire in the night.

On a cold morning in December, 1951, with a thirty-degree below zero temperature, a fire destroyed six automobiles, and narrowly missed trapping five employees of the Hollingsworth & Whitney Company as their equipment shed in the center of town was gutted. This building was once known as Robie Howes' Garage.

The most tragic fire occurred in the early morning hours of March 23, 1952, when the Dutton Hotel was destroyed. Three persons lost their lives, and another succumbed later in a hospital from burns suffered in the blaze.

The most recent tragic fire, also an early morning blaze, took place last December (1961). A forty-year-old father of three perished when his newly completed home, located on the Solon road, burned to the ground.

Through the years the town has been plagued by a few false alarms, many chimney fires, and fires that, by the quick thinking and fine cooperation of the firemen, were quickly checked and brought under control.

Three secretaries have kept the books of the department for the fifty years of its existence. Leon Goodrich, previously mentioned, served for the first three years. He was succeeded by Urban Bean, and in March, 1919, the present secretary, Lee Smith, was elected, and to date is serving his forty-fourth consecutive year.

Several men have acted as chief. Perley Foss, first chief of the department in 1912, followed by Howard Russell, W. J. Estabrook, John McCollor, John Hughes, and Steve Clark. The present chief, Clayton E. Andrews, was elected in March, 1933, this being his thirtieth consecutive year as chief of the department.

— MRS. ALICE ANDREWS



# Bingham Centennial

THE BINGHAM CENTENNIAL and Old Home Week began Tuesday, August 13, 1912, and closed Sunday, August 18th, when a union service of worship was held in the Congregational Church. The chairmen of the several committees were: A. S. Burke, H. I. Goss, F. H. Colby, A. F. Donigan, W. E. Robinson, E. W. Moore, Reverend T. B. Hatt, and A. C. Dinsmore. These men, several of whom became widely known throughout the State, are now at rest from their notable labors.

The Centennial began with the street parade, an oration by Professor L. C. Bateman of Lewiston, and an address by Superintendent of Schools, Charles E. Ball. There were also literary and musical events and a grand ball in the evening. Some newspaper writer, unknown to us, did himself proudly with the account of Tuesday. "And now," he wrote, "it is the turn of Bingham to celebrate and the people of that good old town are doing it in royal style." He reported that the festivities would last four days, but the chief events had been observed Tuesday. "The street parade," he wrote, "the historical address, the oration, and a dozen other features have made this day one that will long be remembered and recalled in the annals of the town. The musical features and the sports have all been the best of their kind and a great crowd of people have been instructed and entertained. From all over the country, men and women who own the town as their birthplace have hastened to do it honor and many have taken part in the program."

"The great civic and historical parade started a few minutes after eleven o'clock . . . Every civic and secret society in the town was represented and even the ancients and horribles were there . . . For fully a half mile the procession stretched its way, and the marching was done to the time and tunes of Towne's band of eighteen pieces. The sidewalks were lined with people . . . This feature occupied a full hour in making the rounds of the village." Then the fire department exhibited new equipment. After all that, came a dinner by expert cooks.

In the afternoon, the Centennial exercises were held in Kennebec Hall. E. W. Moore, of good memory, called the meeting to order about two o'clock. A. S. Burke made an address of welcome, after an invocation prayer by Reverend Thomas Hatt. "Mr. Burke," wrote the reporter, "spoke in graceful terms of the hardships and privations of the pioneers whose virtues they were celebrating . . . To one and all he extended a hearty welcome and Godspeed in every endeavor." There was applause.

There was a Centennial poem by Earle E. Andrews which was "well received." The newspaper printed that poem in full. Deacon Sidney Turner Goodrich gave the historical address. The reporter wrote that this address was ably handled, and he included all of it in his account. It began, "Fellow Townspeople and Friends all: Go back with me in your minds, if you will, to one hundred years ago." And the careful, honest, proud address of a Bingham citizen went on to conclude, "But my friends, Bingham has a future, and what that future will be depends largely upon the fathers and mothers of today; act well your part in that history so when your posterity shall meet to celebrate a centennial one hundred years hence they shall have reason to call you blessed."

And soon that satisfactory first day had passed. One report tells us that the prize for the best float in the parade was awarded Mark Savage Company; that the Ladies Century Club had arranged a fine float with characters dressed in century-old garb, but the party that agreed to furnish the horses refused at the last moment, causing a great disappointment. Another disappointing incident was the shower while the parade was being formed, injuring several floats and ruining the beauty of the splendid Grange float.

August 14th was the day for sports. The famous Somerset Guide's Association had agreed to hold their annual field day at Bingham. The old-time masters of axe, fly rod, rifle, and canoes were there. It was a great day.

Thursday, August 15th, the Sugartown Association entertained with one of their "celebrated picnics filled with pleasure and good fellowship."

Friday, August 16th, the members of the Baker-Goodrich Society invited all visitors and townsmen to their annual picnic with exercises of literary and musical entertainment. Ralph Goodrich, son of Deacon Sidney, and a great-great-grandson of Captain Joshua Goodrich and great-grandson of Ruben Baker, was president of the society that year. They gathered at the Pine Grounds, Bingham Heights. Baker's orchestra was tunefully there. Merton T. Goodrich was historian. Mrs. Florence M. Owens read her poem. Here is the second verse:

*"Hills upon hills stretching far and wide,  
A beautiful river flowing between;  
Peaceful and low on its eastern side,  
The little hamlet of Bingham is seen."*

And then, after four days of joyful celebration and reunion, Sunday was set aside for a quiet union service of worship at the Congregational Church.

— ARTHUR R. MACDOUGAL





























